



**Ohio Civil Justice Committee
HB 606 Proponent Testimony
Tuesday, May 19th, 2020**

Chairman Hambley, members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am Ryan Weible and I am a licensed athletic trainer and serve as the Treasurer of the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association (OATA). I am testifying on behalf of the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association as a proponent of HB 606 (Grendell) Civil Immunity.

Athletic trainers are licensed health care providers who are regulated by the AT Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Athletic Trainers Board (OTPTAT Board). Currently there are over 2,000 licensed athletic trainers in Ohio who work in a variety of settings, including physician offices, hospitals, primary and secondary schools, university and college athletics, professional sports, youth and community parks and recreation programs, sports medicine clinics, wellness clinics, occupational and industrial settings. As health care providers focused on the prevention and rehabilitation of illnesses and injuries, athletic trainers are educated and trained to triage as part of an emergency response team. Often times, the athletic trainer in a school setting will work as part of the team to put together the emergency response plan for the school.

During the current pandemic, athletic trainers have been utilized to assist in various ways across the state, including screening patients for COVID19 testing, helping with the response to the initial planning for the COVID19 surge. As such, OATA supports HB 606 that allows for reasonable protections for health care professionals during a declared state of emergency, while holding a provider liable for any wanton or willful misconduct during an emergency.

Furthermore, when recreational and sporting activities resume, it will be important to have HB 606 Civil Immunity protection in place for athletic trainers to continue to ensure the safety of the patient. Through the development of disinfecting and social distancing policies, management of patient screening and testing protocols, as well as recommending additional pre-preparation screening measures for those who have tested positive or been exposed to COVID 19, the work of athletic trainers will continue beyond the doors of the physician's office or hospital. The protections in HB 606 afford us the ability to continue to do our jobs when we are called upon and needed under circumstances that are extraordinary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.