



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 308 Proponent
Wednesday, May 20th, 2020**

Chairman Eklund and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association (OATA), I would like to offer written testimony in support of Sub SB 308 (Huffman) 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 Sub SB 308 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 the bill's 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 Sub SB 308 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.

Sincerely,
Brian Huck, AT
President, OATA