



Ohio
Health Committee
March 11, 2026, 9:00 AM

Hello, Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony as a proponent of SB 320.

My name is Shannon Fleming. I am the Sr. VP of Credentialing for the Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. The Board of Certification is the national healthcare credentialing organization that is responsible for administering the certification exam and upholding standards of practice for Athletic Trainers or ATs. On behalf of the Board of Certification, I'm writing today in support of SB 320, legislation to enact the Athletic Trainer Compact. Establishing licensure mobility through an interstate compact is a forward-looking solution that will strengthen public protection, expand access to qualified healthcare professionals, and modernize regulations to reflect today's workforce realities.

The AT Compact was finalized in fall 2025 and has already generated significant interest. To date – in this first legislative session - twelve states have formally introduced legislation to enact the AT Compact. In addition to Ohio, the other states include Alabama, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Virginia.

The AT Compact becomes effective upon enactment by seven states. States that adopt the AT Compact early will have a direct role in establishing the rules, bylaws, and governance structure of the AT Compact Commission, thereby shaping the regulatory framework that will guide interstate practice and oversight moving forward.

Importantly, interstate compacts preserve state authority over licensure, scope of practice and discipline while establishing a shared framework for cooperation, transparency, and public safety. Compacts have proven successful for other health care professions, improving workforce mobility while maintaining rigorous standards and consumer protection.

As a refresher, ATs are highly educated, state-regulated health care professionals. As a part of the health care team, services provided by ATs include injury and illness prevention, wellness promotion and education, emergent care, examination and clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. As health care delivery continues to evolve, the ability for ATs to practice across state lines, while maintaining strong licensure standards and accountability, is increasingly important.

The AT Compact would enhance patient access to care, particularly in rural and underserved communities, during public health emergencies, and for individuals who travel or relocate frequently. It would also support employers, schools, and health care systems that operate in multiple states by allowing them to deploy qualified ATs where they are most needed, without unnecessary administrative barriers.

ATs have the knowledge and skills to be effective in many health care settings. This compact would allow ATs to practice across state lines both physically and remotely, such as via digital health. Digital health not only opens doors for ATs but also provides patients with increased access to qualified health care professionals. The AT Compact is the most efficient way for ATs to use digital health in multiple states.

Imagine a patient of athletic training services at The Ohio State University who goes home, out of state, for the summer and the AT caring for this patient cannot have contact with them until they return to campus, causing the patient delayed return-to-play, recovery regression and/or additional costs. This is not a hypothetical situation, but rather one that happens frequently to athletic training patients. The AT Compact would improve continuity of care in these and similar situations.

The athletic training profession also has a strong relationship with all branches of the military. ATs have been increasingly employed by the various Armed Forces to assist in the health and welfare of both active-duty soldiers and their dependents. ATs in the military and/or ATs who have spouses in the military need to be able to make a living without interruption.

Passing the AT Compact demonstrates a commitment to patient-centered care, workforce flexibility, and regulatory efficiency. We respectfully urge you to support SB 320, the AT Compact and help ensure that ATs can continue to serve patients and communities effectively, no matter where care is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.