



Letter in Opposition to Senate Bill 742
Senate Health Care Committee
February 27, 2019

On behalf of the 1,700 physical therapist, physical therapist assistant and student members of the Oregon Physical Therapy Association (OPTA), the OPTA submits this letter in opposition to SB 742.

The OPTA is opposed to the removal of the definitions of “athlete” and “athletic injury” from current statute. The athletic training curriculum focuses on the assessment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. We are concerned that athletic trainers lack the skills to determine the differential diagnoses required to rule out serious pathologies and are not adequately prepared to adapt treatment plans when pathophysiology exists. Both skills are critical when caring for the general population, where the underlying cause of an injury may require more expertise to identify. The revised definition of “practice of athletic training” expands the practice of athletic trainers without a corresponding expansion in education and training and, thus, is not in the best interests of Oregonians as it may place them in situations of unnecessary risk.

The OPTA is committed to working with the athletic trainers to find a compromise that will allow overdue reform of the athletic trainers’ practice act and a move towards licensure, while maintaining the scope of the practice on care for athletic injuries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Murphy, PT
Chair, OPTA Government Affairs Committee