



April 22, 2019

Members of the House Health Care Committee

RE: Support for SB 742 -Relating to athletic trainers

As the Program Director for the Master's of Science Degree Program in Athletic Training at Pacific University in Hillsboro Oregon my duties and responsibilities require me to have an in-depth knowledge of the educational process for the athletic trainer.

It is from this perspective that I would like to speak in favor of the Senate Bill 742 – which seeks to transition the credentialing of an athletic trainer in the state of Oregon from “registration” to “licensure”. As a practicing athletic trainer, I believe that the bill is not asking to increase the scope of practice, but rather ensure that athletic trainers’ are able to practice in emerging areas which fit into the scope of their education. When you look at the growth and development of the profession nationally, there is a movement towards emerging areas of practice. The students that I am working with now are being asked to lend their expertise to practice in areas that when I began in teaching in 2004 were just beginning. For example, I currently have graduates that are working as an athletic trainer in a physician extender role or as an athletic trainer in the industrial area... Our graduates have been asked to develop injury prevention programs through the use of both ergonomic and physical training... Our students are being asked to work collaboratively with all other healthcare providers.

The current educational competencies required for accreditation clearly include a strong foundation in all of these area. As an example, part of the required course load for the athletic training student at Pacific University is an interprofessional education course. During this course the first year students in all of the health professions in our college learn to work collaboratively to solve real world health care issues. Additionally, I can tell you first hand that the foundations of the education of an athletic trainer is supported by passionate and dedicated professors. One strong indicator of this is the initiative shown by the profession of athletic training to move the required entry level education from the Bachelor's to Master's of Science degree level.

I again thank you for this opportunity and believe that passage of this bill would acknowledge the value of this advance degree and support the practitioners of athletic training in their care of the people of the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kawaguchi PT, PhD, ATC
Program Director
Athletic Training Program