



To: Representative Neron, Chair
Representative Dobson, Vice Chair
Representative McIntire, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

From: Ryan Rockwood, President Oregon Athletic Trainers' Society

Date: March 19, 2005

Re: Support for HB 3007 – Return to School Accommodations Following Concussions

The Oregon Athletic Trainers' Society supports HB 3007 because it is essential that we provide the necessary support for students needing immediate, temporary academic accommodations following concussion.

Athletic Trainers (ATs) are the licensed healthcare providers for the physically active. We often provide care in the community where our patients live, work, and play – this includes schools. This affords several advantages:

- 1) easy access to a provider on campus without any cost to the student or family and
- 2) the AT often knows the student before an injury, which provides unique insight into the state of the patient and their injury.

ATs are on the frontlines of concussion management. We provide education on prevention of concussions, we perform the initial evaluation, we manage the patient's recovery and guide their return to sport. Increasingly this includes aiding the student's return to school. Unfortunately, in many schools across the state students are not being provided the immediate, temporary academic accommodations that they need.

This bill improves on HB 4140 in that it

- 1) *requires* schools to develop a process for implementing immediate, temporary academic accommodations,
- 2) it calls out the need for schools to remove concussed athletes from potentially dangerous activities, such as PE and recess, and
- 3) allows schools to utilize their own form, which HB 4140 does not allow.

We believe that this bill strikes the right balance. It provides the needed supports for students while allowing the schools to develop procedures that work for them without being overly prescriptive. We urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rockwood, LAT, ATC
Oregon Athletic Trainers' Society President