

TO: Senator Monnes Anderson, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare

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RE: SB 1547

As members of the interim workgroup we want to thank Senator Monnes Anderson and Oliver Droppers for all their work on this final bill. Several important changes have been made as a result of that work, including a recognition of existing education and training for physicians. Just this past year, both the Oregon Association of Orthopedic Surgeons and the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon offered CME courses on concussion screening and treatment.

While some important progress was made, this legislation does not represent a consensus, and we remain concerned about the patient safety portion of this bill. SB 1547 allows certain non-physicians to return a student athlete to play if they have completed an online course provided by OHSU. While we support the new requirement of specialized and continued training, we are concerned that the education provided is not specialty driven nor as tailored as may be required with looking to bring such diverse practitioners to the table.

A student athlete who has suffered a concussion is particularly vulnerable. If they are returned to play too soon and receive an additional head injury, the consequences can be permanent brain injury, or even death. Reoccurring head injuries are particularly detrimental to developing brains. We are concerned that the training outlined in the bill is not sufficient to protect this uniquely vulnerable population.

The coalition also feels it is important that a neutral party clears the student to play, rather than a person who is employed by the school or the athletes team, as such a person may be subject to outside pressures.

Additionally, we urge you to reconsider setting a minimum liability requirement which has been removed from this version of the bill. In earlier meetings of the workgroup, it was discussed that practitioners treating this population should be required to carry a certain amount of malpractice insurance.

Respectfully, the below coalition urges your opposition to SB 1547.



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

