

I am excited to hear about the potential changes to your state practice act regarding the definition of what constitutes an appropriate treatment setting for athletic trainers. I know that Concentra Medical Centers, as the nation's largest provider of occupational health services in America, employs them across the country to manage musculoskeletal complaints and to provide preventive services for a variety of large employers. Our trainers act as the front line for minor musculoskeletal complaints and provide worker education, job coaching, and ergonomics in the industrial setting. They are instrumental in acting as the onsite liaison for our brick-and-mortar retail facilities. These services are well within their scope of practice and training.

As you know, there are some states which directly prohibit the use of athletic trainers in industry, for some reason arguing that their skills are not appropriate to the workplace setting. We feel this is ludicrous because a worker injury is very similar to an injury in the traditional athletic setting. Workers often must act as industrial athletes, exerting strength, endurance, agility and balance in the same manner as a football player, a gymnast, etc. With so many employers seeking to find ways to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace, I would hope that a state like Oregon would be amenable to trainers in industry as a means of helping companies control healthcare costs and not move jobs to the South or overseas.

If there is anyone to whom I can provide more details about our program and the success we have had elsewhere, I am happy to do so.

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