

To Whom it May Concern,

I applaud Oregon State Legislature for having a discussion surrounding SB 742. As the joint statement from Dr. Sharon Dunn (APTA – President) & Ms. Tori Lindley (NATA – President) stated in late 2018, greater collaboration between Athletic Trainers & Physical Therapists for the advancement of utilization of both services is necessary. Further, “collaborating on best practices and models of care that highlight the value of athletic training and physical therapy across health care” is beneficial for both organizations. With this statement fresh in our minds, the conversation that Oregon legislature is discussing with SB 742 applies to both professionals.

Currently, the majority of Fortune 500 organizations are implementing injury prevention strategies and solutions that place Athletic Trainers and Physical Therapists into the occupational settings to use their understanding of human anatomy, physiology & biomechanics to assist workers on preventative strategies to prevent workplace musculoskeletal injuries. As you know, the foundation of athletic training was built on the principles of prevention and protection. These Industrial Athlete programs capitalize on the skillset of Athletic Trainers to use their knowledge of preventative care to high level athletes & transitioning that guidance to the “Industrial Athletes” whom are afflicted by musculoskeletal injuries at an alarming rate. Similar to the high school or collegiate athlete, the Industrial Athlete is lifting, pushing, pulling, etc. at rapid rates similar to that of an athlete. Ultimately, the emphasis on injury prevention is even more critical to these Industrial Athletes as they cannot typically afford to be off work due to injury. Using the skillset of an ATC to empower these workers to perform their jobs in a healthy fashion, with professionals most suited to understanding if they can play, or not play, as an Industrial Athlete is the right thing to do.

Currently, ATC’s are working with various companies across the nation to assist their employees in becoming the safest Industrial Athletes possible. Some of these industries include, but are not limited to: Aerospace, Auto Industry, Construction, Food Manufacturing, Distribution, and many more. This is the opportunity for preventive health to make an impact in population health with corporate organizations leading the charge by providing for the needs of their employees in advance of injury or disease.

Sincerely,

Lauren Brown, LAT, ATC

Corporate Development Team

e: lauren.brown@workrightnw.com

p: (425) 445-4209

w: www.workrightnw.com

