

April 21, 2019

RE: SB 742A

Dear Representative Salinas:

I am writing in support of the passage of SB 742A. I am pediatric sports medicine physician, currently in practice in Eugene, where I have been for nearly 13 years. I am involved in the care of young athletes clinically at the Slocum Center, and as the Chair of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for both the Oregon School Activities Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations, I am also engaged in policy and rules making at the state and national levels.

As you know, Athletic Trainers (ATs) are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. ATs are a vital link in the proper care of high school athletes across the state. Twenty years ago, when I established my pediatric practice in Hermiston, the first thing I did was meet with the Hermiston High School Athletic Director to collaborate on a program to get Hermiston High School an AT. I'm proud to say that program still exists.

I could fill many pages with anecdotal and well-researched reasons for why I am an advocate for ATs. Importantly, SB 742A will allow ATs to practice to the highest level of their skill set. And this is not limited to high schools, but includes clinics, collegiate and professional athletics, hospitals, and industrial settings. This is vital in a time of health care provider shortages and cost concerns.

I regret that my schedule does not allow me to appear in person, but I am certainly open to the possibility of appearing at a later time, or to further discuss with you or one of your aides by phone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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