



April 23, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 742

Dear Representative Salinas,

On behalf of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), I am writing to register our strong support for SB 742, legislation to license the athletic training profession in Oregon. NATA represents more than 45,000 members of the athletic training profession across the country.

To ensure the safety of all patients, health care professionals providing medical treatment should be licensed to practice. Athletic trainers are health care professionals with, at the minimum, a bachelor's degree in athletic training from an accredited institution. Currently, 70 percent of athletic trainers have advanced degrees. Athletic trainers specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses, and prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. The athletic training profession is included under the allied health professions category, as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and are assigned National Provider Identifier numbers (NPIs). The American Medical Association also recognizes athletic training as an allied health care profession. Currently, athletic trainers are licensed in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Colorado and West Virginia having signed licensure bills into law last month.

In addition to requiring a license to practice, SB 742 allows athletic trainers to practice to the fullest extent of their education, and work with a patient population beyond athletes participating in an organized sport. The location in which an injury occurs should have no bearing on whether an athletic trainer is qualified to provide treatment. Nationally, in addition to working in traditional settings, athletic trainers work in performing arts, public safety, occupational health, and with the military. Athletic trainers in Oregon should be provided these same opportunities. As with every other health care profession, education and training should define the professional competencies of an athletic trainer.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for SB 742. Should you or your staff have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deanna Kuykendall, NATA's Manager of State Government Affairs, at deannak@nata.org or (972) 532-8803.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tory Lindley ATC'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tory R Lindley, MA ATC
NATA President