



To: Public Health Committee

From: Vicky Graham, ATC, LAT
Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association

RE: S.B. No. 755 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ASTHMATIC
INHALERS AND EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS WHILE AT SCHOOL.

Date: February 6, 2009

Good morning. I would like to thank Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and the members of the Public Health Committee for this opportunity to address the committee. My name is Vicky Graham, and I am the President-Elect of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA). I am speaking today in regard to S.B. No. 755 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ASTHMATIC INHALERS AND EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS WHILE AT SCHOOL.

The Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association is supportive of this legislation. We believe it essential that students have immediate access to emergency medications, and support their being able to carry asthma inhalers and Epi-pens with them at school, as well while participating in sports and other after school activities. We are requesting that Licensed Athletic Trainers be included in the list of individuals able to administer or assist with the administration of these medications.

In Connecticut, Athletic Trainers (ATs) are required to work under standing orders from a Physician. ATs very often administer or assist with the administration of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, per standing orders from their supervising Physician. The Licensed Athletic Trainer is responsible for the health and welfare of students participating in sports at the school, and is typically the only trained medical professional on school grounds after classes end. Secondary school athletic practices and events occur after school, well into the evening. The AT is the primary responder to any type of medical problem or emergency that occurs during practices and competition.

ATs are highly qualified, multi-skilled allied health care professionals and have been part of the American Medical Association's Health Professions Career and Education Directory for more than a decade. Athletic trainers are assigned National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers like all

other health care professionals. In addition, the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, among others, are all strong clinical and academic supporters of ATs. Athletic Training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. While traditionally practicing in secondary school, college, and professional athletics, the AT also practices in sports medicine clinics, physician offices, the industrial setting, the performing arts, and the military. ATs are required to have received a Bachelor's degree from an accredited Athletic Training Education Program, and to pass a national certification examination. Over 70% of Athletic Trainers have advanced degrees, and all are required to complete ongoing continuing education in order to maintain certification and licensure.

The Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association is requesting that the language in S.B. 755 be modified to include Licensed Athletic Trainers as individuals who, along with "...the principal, any teacher, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics of a school..." may administer asthmatic inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors.

Thank you.