

March 2, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Gerritano, Representative Ritter, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Eleni Diakogeorgiou. I currently work for Select Physical Therapy as a Center Manager in Newington and Berlin, and as Sports Medicine Director. Additionally, I am an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University. I've worked as a Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer at the college level and as the Head Athletic Trainer at Berlin High School. I am also the Chair of a committee for the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association, and have served on the Board of Directors.

I am here today to testify in support of raised SB 1051 "AAC the Practice of Athletic Training". Currently I work in a clinic/outreach setting which means that we contract Athletic Trainers out to local high schools part time, who provide quality care to the student athletes. The rest of their time is spent in the clinic where they help with administrative tasks, customer service, laundry and anything that will help with the day to day operations of the clinic, but they do not treat any patients.

Many of the Athletic Trainers in Connecticut work in the clinic/outreach setting. SB 1051 would help maintain and create many jobs in the State. The National Athletic Trainers Association shows that "results of a comparative analysis of care provided by athletic trainers (ATs) and physical therapists (PTs) in a clinical setting indicated ATs provide the same levels of outcomes, value and patient satisfaction as physical therapists in a clinical setting. Patient satisfaction ratings are more than 96 percent when treatment is provided by ATs." (Facts about Athletic Trainers, www.nata.org) I manage and work along side Physical Therapists daily. I have the utmost respect for the profession and feel that if we work together and along side of each other we can provide the highest quality care in the care and treatment of individuals.

SB 1051 would allow Athletic Trainers in this setting to fully utilize their education, competency and training. Furthermore, this bill will allow for more clinicians in a setting that currently has a shortage of graduating professionals and help provide ample, quality care to members of Connecticut. Ultimately this bill will create and maintain more jobs in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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