

March 1, 2011

Written Testimony of Justin LeDuc ATC, LAT

Head Athletic Trainer, Trinity College

RE: S.B. No. 1051 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ATHLETIC TRAINING.

Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Justin LeDuc I am the Head Athletic Trainer at Trinity College in Hartford. I also serve as the Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee of the CATA. I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you in support of S.B No. 1051 An Act Concerning the Practice of Athletic Training.

As an athletic trainer working at Trinity College I am able to provide services to student athletes that encompasses prevention, assessment, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment and functional limitations. I am fortunate to be in a position to utilize the education and skills I have developed to assist a patient population I am passionate about. Athletic trainers have been sought and valued by sports medicine specialists and physicians for more than 60 years.

As the United States continues to focus on an active lifestyle it is important that people have access to healthcare professionals who can support lifelong, safe physical activity. The injuries that I see in the athletic arena also occur in the workforce within a small community such as Trinity College. Athletic Trainers obtain the education and training to be able to participate in the healthcare of the squash player who has a torn rotator cuff requiring surgery and, the secretary in the athletics office who has a torn rotator cuff requiring surgery. I have witnessed a professor rupture his Achilles tendon running upstairs because he was late for a class just as I have seen a football player have the same injury sprinting on the football field. The proposed changes to the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Practice Act would allow the "non athlete" the same access to a healthcare provider educated and trained to provide them with a high level of care. I have a passion for the athletic population; however, there are Athletic Trainers who are just as passionate about providing care to other populations. Across the country more than 50 percent of athletic trainers work outside the athletic setting and provide services to people of all ages. Athletic Trainers work in physician offices as physician extenders. They also work in rural and urban hospitals, hospital emergency rooms, urgent and ambulatory care centers, military hospitals, and commercial settings. They are in great demand for their versatile health and wellness services and injury and illness prevention skills. The proposed legislation will allow athletic trainers to fill similar roles and practice within the full scope of their education and training.

The proposed legislation will increase employment opportunities that will benefit the Connecticut Athletic Training Education Programs. Serving as an Advanced Clinical Instructor for the University of Connecticut's Athletic Training Education Program I have had the opportunity to meet highly educated well prepared students who have a desire and passion to provide healthcare services to individuals in the "non traditional" setting of a college/university, high school or professional sports team. Currently these students often need to find employment outside of the state in order to reach their goals.

I thank you for your time and I would ask each of you to support RE: S.B. No. 1051 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ATHLETIC TRAINING.