



## CONNECTICUT ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of James Doran, President, Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association

RE: Support of SB 224, AAC Recommendations of the School Nurse Advisory Council

February 28, 2014

The Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA) supports SB 224, AAC Recommendations of the School Nurse Advisory Council. Our members who work in the secondary school setting work closely with school nurses every day, and have a unique understanding of the demands of their jobs. More students than ever have medical issues that require oversight during the school day. We care for some of those same students after school when they participate in sports, and are appreciative of the continuity of care having a school nurse and athletic trainer as part of the school health care team affords. We support the recommendation for a 750:1 student to nurse ratio, and suggest this be modified to include a requirement of at least one nurse per school. When a school nurse is not in the building every day, as is the case in some districts, the level of care provided students drops significantly. Many students are simply sent home for health issues that could easily be managed by a school nurse, but are beyond the ability of a teacher or school administrator to properly manage. There is an increased risk of an adverse outcome related to an asthma attack, for example, as ambulance response times typically range from 7 to 10 minutes or more in some areas. There has been a great deal of attention paid in the legislature to sports injuries like concussions. Having adequate school nurse staffing during the school day is a crucial component of insuring appropriate medical care for students who need follow-up care for injuries such as concussions. This is particularly important in insuring they are able to gradually and successfully resume academic activities after concussion. We support SB 224, and hope the language will be modified to include a requirement for at least one nurse per school. Thank you.