



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the General Law Committee

March 7, 2016

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
860-509-7101**

Senate Bill #356 - An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers

The Department offers the following information on Senate Bill 356. The proposed language in this bill will make changes to the practice act concerning licensing of athletic trainers.

The Department agrees that the existing statutory definition of "athlete" in the athletic trainer practice act may be overly restrictive and prohibit athletic trainers from practicing to the full extent of their training. The current definition of "athlete" in the statute requires that an athlete participate in organized sports or recreational activities no less than three times per week. It seems to the Department that there may be athletes who participate in these types of activities less than three times a week that could still benefit from the services of an athletic trainer during such activity. However, the proposed language does not address this issue and only changes the word "athlete" to "physically active individual". The Department is unsure about how such a seemingly minor change will impact service delivery by athletic trainers.

Regarding the bill's other provisions, the Department is aware that education and training of athletic trainers has advanced since the practice act was established and we are not necessarily opposed to an expansion of the scope of practice for athletic trainers. However, the Department would be interested in learning more about the proposed language related to an athletic trainer's scope of practice, including the language related to casting and providing wellness services for asymptomatic individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on this bill.

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