



Testimony for Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA

March 3, 2016

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, & Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing today to testify in support of SB 356: An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers. I am a professor of athletic training and the CEO of the Korey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut. I am a resident of Mansfield, CT and have lived in Connecticut for 20 years.

SB 356 would update the current Athletic Trainer practice act to reflect current practice, and allow ATs in Connecticut to practice to the full extent of their education and knowledge. As I am sure you are aware the athletic training profession is an extremely unique medical profession in that it is one of the only medical fields that is specifically trained to prevent sudden death. Whether it be the athletic trainer who is working with our armed forces, laborers, or athletes, one of the key roles of an athletic trainer is to prevent, rapidly recognize, and astutely treat a myriad of conditions that can have catastrophic outcomes if not treated properly within the first 5-10 minutes after presentation. The five most common causes of death during physical activity are, in order; 1) cardiac causes, 2) head injuries, 3) exertional heat stroke, 4) exertional sickling, and 5) cervical spine injuries. Given that all of these conditions are survivable if outstanding care is delivered upon the moment of presentation one of the key roles of an athletic trainer is exemplified at the patients most vulnerable moments. The current bill you are considering will allow athletic trainers to practice to the full capacity of their training and education. I am very proud to say that I have successfully treated 215 exertional heat strokes. Those 215 lives I have saved provide vivid examples of what an athletic trainer can do when all the chips are on the table.

The Korey Stringer Institute, which is housed at UCONN, is the worldwide leader with regards to providing education, conducting research, and advocating for policy changes that influence athletes, soldiers, and laborers. Our primary mission is to assure that the correct knowledge is ascertained, disseminated, and instituted as policy so that we can be sure that we are doing our due diligence to protect those we love, who protect our country, and work in dangerous situations. The athletic training profession, working in close concert with physicians, are the key players in this puzzle of making sure this can occur.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with further questions.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas J. Casa'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'C'.

Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA
Chief Executive Officer, Korey Stringer Institute
Professor, Department of Kinesiology
Director, Athletic Training Education
860-486-3624 douglas.casa@uconn.edu