



## SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
HUMAN MOVEMENT AND SPORTS SCIENCE  
ATHLETIC TRAINING  
EXERCISE SCIENCE

### Testimony in Support of SB 356: An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers

Gail Samdperil, EdD, ATC, LAT

Date: March 4, 2016

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. I am writing today to testify in support of SB 356: An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers. This bill as drafted does not include the full version. The complete version of the bill is attached to the CATA testimony. I am supporting this complete version as submitted by the CATA. I believe it is vital for the profession of athletic training and the health care system to pass the full version of the presented bill.

As the Associate Dean of the College of Health Professions (CHP) at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut and an athletic training professional, I know the role of an athletic trainer is vital as member of the health care team and is valued as part of interprofessional practice (IPP). Each, and every day, athletic trainers work cooperatively with other health care professionals, providing quality care to patients in diverse settings. It is the patient who benefits most from this cohesive and collaborative environment. Interprofessional practice enriches the healthcare system creating an optimal approach to patient care.

Athletic trainers are educated in an environment that supports and integrates interprofessional education (IPE). As an educator in an accredited athletic training program, housed in the College of Health Professions, I know first hand the importance of educating athletic training students along with other students studying physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology and exercise science. We do this everyday at Sacred Heart University, creating an environment of mutual respect. The faculty serve as role models for all students, conveying support for all programs within the college. The collaborative education is emphasized in the didactic and clinical environment, setting our students up to appreciate the education and value of all health care professions, but most importantly, it provides a foundation for a respectful and productive working environment.

As a resident of Greenwich, Connecticut with children in the public school system, I know athletic trainers in the community serve the community at large, always enhancing the total quality of care provided to a diverse population.

Supporting bill SB 356: An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers in its full version would update the current Athletic Trainer Practice Act to reflect current practice, and allow athletic trainers in Connecticut to practice to the full extent of their education and knowledge.

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

Sincerely,

Gail Samdperil EdD, ATC  
Clinical Associate Professor  
Sacred Heart University  
Athletic Training Program  
5151 Park Ave.  
Fairfield, CT 06432  
203-296-8033  
[samdperilg@sacredheart.edu](mailto:samdperilg@sacredheart.edu)