

Testimony in Support of Raised SB No. 356: An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers

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Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. I am writing today to testify in support of SB No. 356) An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers. I have been an Athletic Trainer for over 17 years and I live in and work in Stamford. In the past, I have provided health care for athletes at the collegiate and professional setting and was also an Assistant Professor in a graduate level athletic training program at LIU-Brooklyn for 11 years. Currently, I am employed at Stamford Hospital working in our new Concussion Center at our Chelsea Piers Office. Concussions are a complex injury that affects each individual differently and has no discretion as to how the injury occurs or at what age it happens. Our Center offers a multi-disciplinary approach to the care and management of concussion, with a team of experts, including a neuropsychologist, neurologists, integrative medicine, physical, occupational and speech therapists, and myself. Our Center provides care for patients across the spectrum of age and mechanism of injury. As the need for access grows, we are currently in the process of developing an expansion plan, which athletic trainer's play a key role.

RB356 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.

- Athletic training is a relatively new profession that is evolving rapidly. While ATs started out working primarily with sports teams at colleges and secondary schools, many ATs have taken their unique skill set and expanded into other practice settings.
- Updating the language would provide expanded access to healthcare for patients, improving outcomes and guide patients on the right path for recovery.
- Expand job opportunities retain our young professionals who graduate from the 5 AT programs in CT.

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

Sincerely,



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