



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

Robert A. Huggins PhD, ATC, LAT

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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 356: An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers. I currently serve as the Vice President of Research at the Korey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut which is housed in the Department of Kinesiology. As a 501(3)c non-profit whose mission is to prevent sudden death in sport in the physically active, we strive to mobilize change in the area of health and safety at all levels of sport in three primary means; 1. Research, 2. Advocacy for policy change, and 3. Mass media outreach. As a part of my recent work for the Korey Stringer Institute we have held two massive health and safety best practices meetings one targeting the top 10 major youth sports governing bodies (ie. USA Football, US soccer, USA Hockey, etc) entitled the Youth Sports Safety Governing Bodies Meeting and the other targeting ALL 50 state high school athletic associations entitled The Collaborative Solutions for Safety in Sport both held in NYC at the NFL Headquarters in association with the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

As a result of these meetings, sweeping changes are being made at both the high school and youth sports level in the areas of cardiac, heat, emergency planning, and concussion. Furthermore, I can tell you that one of the major concerns at these meetings are the ability to provide appropriate medical care to properly implement the best practice policies. Entities at both the high school and youth sports levels unanimously agree that athletic training services are best practice, however a common limitation rising to the surfacing are related to practice act restrictions. In order for the athletic trainer to perform "health and safety best practice standards" and for both high school and youth athletes to be safer in sport, it is imperative that they not be limited by their practice acts. The revised bill SB 356, as submitted by the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association 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.

On behalf of all of us at the Korey Stringer Institute we support the changes reflected in the revised Athletic Training practice act. This bill would not hinder the Athletic Trainers, the very medical professionals working to keep our children safe during sport, from implementing the health and safety best practices which are sweeping our country.

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

Sincerely,

**Robert A. Huggins, PhD, ATC, LAT**

**Korey Stringer Institute**

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