



ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

4048 Laurel Street Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99508 • PHONE: 907-563-3723 • FAX: 907-561-0720

February 21, 2014

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

Dear Representative Olson,

I am Gary Matthews, Executive Director of Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA), and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

As an administrator, I am concerned for the health and safety of our young athletes throughout the state. With high school athletes suffering from 2 million injuries, 500,000 doctor visits, and 30,000 hospitalizations each year and the fact that there have been more than 372 deaths of young athletes in the last four years throughout the country, we must do a better job of providing them with a safe environment. I believe that the passage of this bill will save lives.

Currently in Alaska, *anyone* can call themselves an athletic trainer without having the proper qualifications. There are countless unqualified individuals across the state posing as athletic trainers and making medical decisions every day. The number of young athletes sustaining severe or multiple injuries continues to increase every year. There is no better time than *now* to guarantee that these young athletes have properly trained and educated individuals providing them medical care and responding to emergencies on the sidelines.

I have had the privilege of working with a number of certified athletic trainers during my career. The knowledge that I have a highly educated and trained individual on staff that will provide appropriate on-site medical care in emergency and non-emergency cases to my athletes is invaluable.

Passage of this bill is the only way for administrators, parents and coaches to know that the individual responding to emergency situations and providing medical care to young athletes is qualified to do so.

This bill will save lives at **no cost to the state, school district or hard working taxpayers**. For the safety and welfare of our athletes and children, **I urge you to vote yes on HB 160.**

Sincerely,

Gary Matthews
ASAA
4048 Laurel Street, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-563-3823 (work) 907-441-4298 (cell)

2/21/2014

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

Dear Representative Olson,

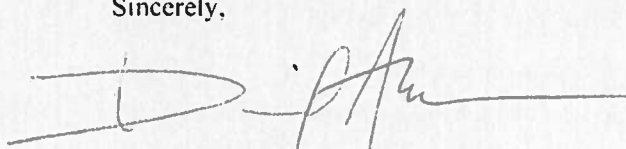
I am the **Co-Head Football** coach at **Bartlett High School**, and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would, at no cost to the state, school district or taxpayers, provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

In my **11** years as a coach, I have worked with a number of certified athletic trainers. I have found them to be highly educated medical professionals who are invaluable to the everyday function of my athletes and my team. I rely on my athletic trainer to prevent, recognize and respond to injuries or illnesses related to physical activity. At times when my team travels to other schools for games, I must rely on the hosting school's athletic trainer to provide medical care for my athletes. This is usually an individual whom I am not familiar with and unfortunately, without licensure, I have no way of knowing whether this person, calling themselves an athletic trainer, is educated or qualified to provide medical care.

I have dedicated my career to educating young athletes. I spend my time encouraging them not only in the development of their athletic skill, but also preparing them with life skills beyond what they will need in the sports arena. Every athlete I coach will eventually end their athletic career and focus on other aspects of their life. No coach ever wants to see an athlete's life impeded by an injury, or worse, ended by an incident on the field. By providing licensure to athletic trainers we will help prevent the death of young athletes by ensuring they are receiving appropriate on-site medical care in instances of emergency and non-emergency cases.

I urge you to **vote YES on HB 160** because by choosing to protect these young athletes now, we can protect them for a lifetime to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Esparza', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Esparza
1101 Golden Bear Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504



Dennis Sorenson
3170 Marathon Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

February 21, 2013

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Bldg 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

Dear Representative Olson,

I am the **Head Hockey** coach at **Dimond High School** and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would, at no cost to the state, school district or taxpayers, provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

In my 30 years as a coach, I have worked with a number of certified athletic trainers. I have found them to be highly educated medical professionals who are invaluable to the everyday function of my athletes and my team. I rely on my athletic trainer to prevent, recognize and respond to injuries or illnesses related to physical activity. At times when my team travels to other schools for games, I must rely on the hosting school's athletic trainer to provide medical care for my athletes. This is usually an individual whom I am not familiar with and unfortunately, without licensure, I have no way of knowing whether this person, calling themselves an athletic trainer, is educated or qualified to provide medical care.

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I urge you to vote **YES** on **HB 160** because by choosing to protect these young athletes now, we can protect them for a lifetime to come.

Sincerely,

Dennis Sorenson

2/21/2014

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

Dear Representative Olson,

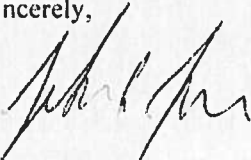
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I urge you to **vote YES on HB 160** because by choosing to protect these young athletes now, we can protect them for a lifetime to come.

Sincerely,



John Jessen
1101 Golden Bear Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504



Mr. John Snead MED
2909 W. 88th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

2/21/14

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

Dear Representative Olson,

I am the Athletic Director at A.J. Dimond High School and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

As an administrator, I am concerned for the health and safety of our young athletes throughout the state. With high school athletes suffering from 2 million injuries, 500,000 doctor visits, and 30,000 hospitalizations each year and the fact that there have been more than 372 deaths of young athletes in the last four years throughout the country, we must do a better job of providing them with a safe environment. I believe that the passage of this bill will save lives.

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I have had the privilege of working with a number of certified athletic trainers during my career. The knowledge that I have a highly educated and trained individual on staff that will provide appropriate on-site medical care in emergency and non-emergency cases to my athletes is invaluable.

Passage of this bill is the only way for administrators, parents and coaches to know that the individual responding to emergency situations and providing medical care to young athletes is qualified to do so.

This bill will save lives at **no cost to the state, school district or hard working taxpayers**. For the safety and welfare of our athletes and children, **I urge you to vote yes on HB 160.**

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Navarre
Dimond High Teacher/Coach
3344 Monticello Ct.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

February 20, 2014

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

Dear Representative Olson,

I am the **Flag Football and Head Track** coach at **Dimond High School**, and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would, at no cost to the state, school district or taxpayers, provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

In my **21** years as a coach, I have worked with a number of certified athletic trainers. I have found them to be highly educated medical professionals who are invaluable to the everyday function of my athletes and my team. I rely on my athletic trainer to prevent, recognize and respond to injuries or illnesses related to physical activity. At times when my team travels to other schools for games, I must rely on the hosting school's athletic trainer to provide medical care for my athletes. This is usually an individual whom I am not familiar with and unfortunately, without licensure, I have no way of knowing whether this person, calling themselves an athletic trainer, is educated or qualified to provide medical care.

I have dedicated my career to educating young athletes. I spend my time encouraging them not only in the development of their athletic skill, but also preparing them with life skills beyond what they will need in the sports arena. Every athlete I coach will eventually end their athletic career and focus on other aspects of their life. No coach ever wants to see an athlete's life impeded by an injury, or worse, ended by an incident on the field. By providing licensure to athletic trainers we will help prevent the death of young athletes by ensuring they are receiving appropriate on-site medical care in instances of emergency and non-emergency cases.

I urge you to **vote YES on HB 160** because by choosing to protect these young athletes now, we can protect them for a lifetime to come.

Sincerely,


Kathleen A. Navarre

February 21, 2014

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Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

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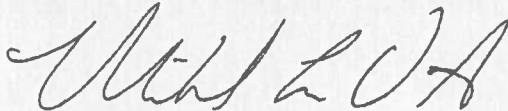
I am the **Head Volleyball** coach at **West Anchorage HS**, and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would, at no cost to the state, school district or taxpayers, provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

In my **30** years as a coach, I have worked with a number of certified athletic trainers. I have found them to be highly educated medical professionals who are invaluable to the everyday function of my athletes and my team. I rely on my athletic trainer to prevent, recognize and respond to injuries or illnesses related to physical activity. At times when my team travels to other schools for games, I must rely on the hosting school's athletic trainer to provide medical care for my athletes. This is usually an individual whom I am not familiar with and unfortunately, without licensure, I have no way of knowing whether this person, calling themselves an athletic trainer, is educated or qualified to provide medical care.

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I urge you to vote **YES** on **HB 160** because by choosing to protect these young athletes now, we can protect them for a lifetime to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael L. Vincent".

Michael L Vincent
12921 Jacks Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

2-21-2014

Representative Kurt Olson
Committee Chair
Labor and Commerce
State Capitol Rm 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 160 (THOMPSON)

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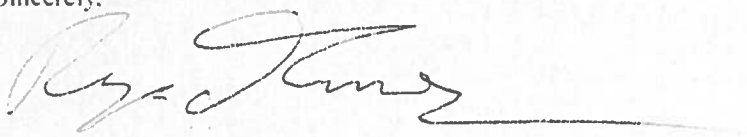
I am the Assistant Wrestling coach at Bartlett High School, and I am writing to urge you to vote yes on **HB 160 (THOMPSON)**. The "Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers" would, at no cost to the state, school district or taxpayers, provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers.

In my 10 years as a coach, I have worked with a number of certified athletic trainers. I have found them to be highly educated medical professionals who are invaluable to the everyday function of my athletes and my team. I rely on my athletic trainer to prevent, recognize and respond to injuries or illnesses related to physical activity. At times when my team travels to other schools for games, I must rely on the hosting school's athletic trainer to provide medical care for my athletes. This is usually an individual whom I am not familiar with and unfortunately, without licensure, I have no way of knowing whether this person, calling themselves an athletic trainer, is educated or qualified to provide medical care.

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I urge you to vote **YES** on **HB 160** because by choosing to protect these young athletes now, we can protect them for a lifetime to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Theuer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Theuer
4321 Gannett Circle
Anchorage, AK, 99504