



Alaska Athletic Trainers Association
PO Box 872710
Wasilla, AK 99687

March 16, 2011

Senator McGuire,

The Alaska Athletic Trainers Association fully supports the language of House Bill 15 and Senate Bill 22, *Student Athlete Traumatic Brain Injuries*. This legislation serves to raise awareness and protect youth athletes from the risks of concussions. The Alaska Athletic Trainers Association pledges to support the following key elements: (1) concussion education for young athletes, parents and coaches; (2) immediate removal of a student athlete who appears to have suffered a concussion from play or practice; and (3) mandatory clearance of that student by a health care professional who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions before returning to play or practice.

Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. We prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care.

The Alaska Athletic Trainers Association is also working toward licensing athletic trainers in the state of Alaska. A licensed athletic trainer is one who has established qualifications and works within a scope of practice. Alaska is one of only three states that do not regulate athletic trainers and we feel it is time to change that. We hope you will support our professional endeavor for licensing athletic trainers in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Brenda Sheldon
Certified Athletic Trainer
President of the Alaska Athletic Trainers Association
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