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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.

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,

Dennis Sorenson