



March 12, 2013

Brenda Sheldon, ATC, PT, President
Alaska Athletic Trainers' Association
PO Box 872710
Wasilla, AK 99687-2710

Dear Brenda:

On behalf of the 38,000 members of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, I am writing to endorse your efforts to gain licensure for athletic training in the state of Alaska.

When the legislature enacts this public safety measure, Alaska will become the 49th state to regulate our profession. Since 1971, when Texas enacted the first AT practice act, states have recognized the need for recognition of this profession and protection of the patients we serve.

Recent attention to sports injuries has highlighted the critical role of health professionals in sports programs for young athletes, but we have known for over 60 years the value of the AT profession in working with the physically active. Athletic trainers have created many of the professional guidelines now used for treatment of mild traumatic brain injury, exertional sickling, sudden cardiac arrest, and other injuries and conditions that happen on the playing field.

Fortunately, we have a standardized system of credentialing athletic trainers and a standardized system of accrediting our educational programs. Alaska is one of only two states where someone who has not benefited from that education or credentialing process may perform athletic training.

We appreciate the efforts of Alaska legislators to recognize our profession.

Sincerely,

Jim Thornton, ATC
President