



To: Representative Steve Thompson
State Capital Room, 500
Juneau, AK 99801

Athletic training is practiced by athletic trainers, health care professionals who collaborate with and work under the direction of physicians.

- Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities.
- Alaska is one of only 2 states that do not license athletic trainers. The language of the bill states that anyone calling themselves an *athletic trainer* in Alaska must be licensed by the state of Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing. Lack of regulation creates the risk those individuals who have lost or are unable to obtain licensure in another state will come to Alaska to practice, thereby putting the public in danger and degrading the standards of the profession as a whole.
- The Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing will hold Alaska athletic trainers accountable to the rigorous standards of the Board of Certification®, a national agency.
- Presently, athletic trainers are not covered by the Alaska Statute 09.65.300 *Immunity for Providing Free Health Care Services* (Alaska's version of the *Good Samaritan Law*). This prevents athletic trainers from volunteering their services at schools, community or nonprofit events. HB 160 will add "athletic trainer" to the list of professionals covered in the statute.
- More than 70 percent of certified athletic trainers hold at least a master's degree.

I support the role of the athletic trainer in Alaska and sign this document in support of licensing athletic trainers in Alaska and HB 160.

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