



Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association, Inc.
"We Provide Active Care For Active People"

January 9, 1998

Representative Steven Foti
State Capitol, Room 215-W
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Foti:

Thank you for forwarding to us a letter from John Hendrickson outlining the position of the WPTA regarding language changes for AB 466.

- There may be some overlap in approach and in patient populations with other professions and in the case of physical therapy, we often do work in the same setting (the meeting you hosted in your office helped to point out some of the areas of overlap.).
- The profession does not just exist in the area of "sanctioned events" - the largest concentration of athletic trainers practicing in the state are in those settings where patients are treated for illness and injury due to vigorous activity. The success of athletic trainers in treating this population, in consultation with physicians, is indicative of the need for this aspect of athletic training practice to be expressly included in the bill.

We have studied the language changes suggested by the WPTA and have carefully considered them for inclusion with some revision in an attempt to move the legislation forward. From the John Hendrickson letter to you, dated December 12, we have agreed to the following language changes to move the bill forward.

- Point #1.** Page 3 regarding the affiliated credentialing board language as follows:
"An athletic trainers affiliated credentialing board consisting of 4 athletic trainers, 1 physical therapist, 1 physician, and 1 public member". We do not wish to specify for dual credential of any aforementioned professionals.
- Point #2.** Page 4 use of the definition of "athlete" and "athletic injury". We will agree to a change of wording on definition of "athletic injury" and agree to include a definition of "athlete".

Definition of "athlete" as follows: "Athlete means a person participating in vigorous activity, sports, games, or recreation".

Definition of "Athletic injury" as follows:

a) "Athletic injury" means an injury or illness sustained by a person as a result of the person's participation in vigorous activity, sports, games, or recreation.

b) An injury or illness that impedes or prevents a person from participating in vigorous activity, sports, games, or recreation.

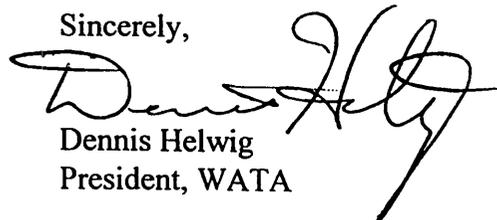
Point #3. Page 5 regarding the deletion of sections (2) and (3). Athletic Training has been developed through and continues in its practice the consultation with physicians in the care of "athletes". Therefore, in 448.9525, sections (2) and (3) must remain. These sections provide for important physician review of protocols established by athletic trainers in their employment settings.

Point #7. Page 11 with regard to replacement of practice requirements. We do not agree to delete anything from this section (448.956) but would be willing to add to this section the language concerning the clinical or corporate settings such as suggested by the WPTA with some addition as follows: "In a clinical or corporate setting when the service is, or is represented as being physical therapy, an athletic trainer may work only under the direct supervision of a physical therapist or ~~under the general supervision of a physician.~~"

The language makes the statement consistent with our relationship with physicians in the practice of athletic training in the aforementioned settings and allows for the direct supervision of athletic trainers by physical therapists.

We are pleased to see that there were many other areas of agreement on this legislation and hope that the language changes we have accepted and proposed will move this legislation forward. Thank you again, Representative Foti, for your leadership of this legislation and your efforts to clarify the issues and seek resolution. We look forward to a scheduled public hearing.

Sincerely,



Dennis Helwig
President, WATA