



## **Testimony in Support of LD 1290 (“An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Athletic Trainers”)**

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Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and members of the Joint Select Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Rick Sirois, and I am a licensed athletic trainer and a member of the Maine Athletic Trainers' Association.

The MATA is a professional association representing the over 300 licensed athletic trainers (commonly referred to as “ATs”) practicing healthcare for athletes and the physically active here in Maine in settings such as high schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and in the workforce. Central to our education and training is the prevention, acute management, and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that commonly affect athletes and the physically active such as concussions, exertional heat illnesses, and cardiac emergencies.

LD 1290 seeks to modernize a statute that was initially drafted in 1995 when the pathway to becoming an AT was significantly different. Indeed, the minimum degree for new candidates wishing to become credentialed through the Board of Certification is now at the Master’s level.

Among the important updates are replacing outdated terms, removing outmoded language, and extending the period of time for athletic trainers visiting Maine as part of an out-of-state team or organization to practice without a Maine license from 4 days to a more practicable 14 days. None of the proposed changes would modify the scope of practice for ATs here in Maine.

For these reasons, I support LD 1290 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Rick Sirois