



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

Paul J Culina, 51 Maxfield Drive, Orono, Maine

April 15, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and members of the Joint Select Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Paul Culina, and I am a licensed athletic trainer and the President 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. For the past 30 years, I have been practicing athletic training at the University of Maine in Orono. I am primarily responsible for the health and well-being of our Men’s ice hockey team. Within the athletic department at the University of Maine, we have 10 nationally certified and state licensed athletic trainers that provide care for approximately 450 student athletes in our 19 varsity sports. Athletic trainers in the state of Maine can be found in several settings ranging from high schools to colleges, professional sports to the active workforce. In many cases, the athletic trainer is the primary source of health care to the patients they serve. Our scope of practice includes the prevention, acute management, and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that commonly affect athletes and the physically active. Concussions, exertional heat illnesses, and cardiac emergencies are just a few of the conditions that we are trained to handle and ATs are experts in the preparation and administration of emergency action plans (EAPs).

LD 1290 seeks to modernize a statute that was initially drafted in 1995 when the pathway to becoming an AT was significantly different. Among the important updates are replacing outdated terms, removing outmoded language, and extending the period of time for athletic trainers visiting Maine as part of an out-of-state team or organization to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,

Paul J Culina, MEd, LAT, ATC

Governmental Affairs Committee

www.gomata.org

gac@gomata.org