



License to Save Lives?

Who's Taking Care of Your Kids on the Playing Field?



The Issue at Stake

There is a youth sports safety crisis in America. In the last four years there have been over 372 deaths of school-aged athletes between the ages of 5-26, including more than 40 in California. We can, and must, do a better job protecting our youth.

Everyday we see, hear and read about young athletes suffering catastrophic injuries which can result in lifelong musculoskeletal or neurological conditions – or even prove fatal. Without proper legislation regulating the profession of athletic trainers, children continue to be at risk – left in the hands of unqualified, untrained individuals calling themselves “athletic trainers.”

The Answer is Simple

Licensure.

By licensing the profession, California can regulate who can call themselves an “athletic trainer,” and at NO cost to the state.

We have proposed a bill that would provide for the licensure and regulation of athletic trainers and prohibit a person from engaging in the practice of athletic training without a license.

All costs associated with licensing would be covered by application and renewal fees, making it not only sensible, but cost-neutral.

Bill Breakdown

Athletic trainers play a vital role in the safety of athletes by providing appropriate onsite medical care in instances of emergent and non-emergent cases.

Nowhere else is this more crucial than at the primary and secondary school levels. As kids begin specializing in a particular sport there's been a growing incidence of serious injuries and complications resulting from overuse and intensive over-training.

While colleges, universities and professional sports teams provide their athletes with access to a certified athletic trainer, there is a glaring misrepresentation at the youth sports levels. Only 15 to 20 percent of California high schools even have access to an athletic trainer, let alone a certified athletic trainer.

This bill would directly impact the safety of athletes by mandating these specific requirements for licensure:

- Must have graduated from a nationally recognized athletic training program from an accredited college or university
- Must pass a comprehensive exam approved by the Athletic Training Licensing Committee
- Must possess an emergency cardiac care certification
- Pay application fees established by the Athletic Training Licensing Committee

The bill would also specify that a license expires in three years and is subject to renewal upon payment of a renewal fee and the completion of 75 hours of continuing education in order to keep their knowledge and skills current.

What is an Athletic Trainer?

*Not Just Ankle Tapers,
Athletic Trainers Are
Healthcare Professionals*

Athletic trainers are physical medicine specialists, who make clinical decisions regarding injury prevention, rehabilitation, and most importantly, provide recognition of and on-site emergency care for catastrophic injuries, such as sudden cardiac arrest, heat illness and concussions.

Recognized as allied health professionals by the American Medical Association (AMA), athletic trainers have earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university, completed appropriate clinical training and are certified nationally by the Board of Certification.

California is currently one of only three states that does not regulate the athletic training profession, meaning anyone can label him/herself an athletic trainer without the proper education or certification – giving athletes, parents and coaches a false sense of safety and leaving athletes at risk.