



Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association

Fellow Athletic Trainers,

I am reaching out today to let you know that the Senate finance committee has decided to reinstate the board provisions that were taken out by the House of Representatives. As a reminder this language would combine our board along with other healthcare professionals into one Physical Health Services Board, beginning January of 2018.

Currently, the OTPTAT board has 20 members representing the three professions. This restructure would reduce that total number drastically. Representation for 27,000+ licensees would be reduced to 5 members on a 7 member board, with a disproportionate number representing each group of licensees the board currently serves. **Each of our current boards would only be assured of one seat on this new board, but with the possibility of two additional appointments from any of the three professions. This addition was originally included and then removed in the House of Representatives version.**

As we have said in the past the new structure of the board would impact consumer safety by allowing individuals who are not trained in athletic training to make decisions that could impact the education, oversight and discipline of the profession. In addition, the disproportionate manner in which the board would be made up could significantly politicize and fracture the congenial atmosphere of the board as it sits now. Finally, the efficiency and amount of the work that is done by our current board would be compromised and could create a backlog in these procedures and the enforcement of our laws and rules.

The OATA is asking you to call your Senator and ask them to remove this provision from the Senate version of the bill. We need to **ACT AGAIN and NOW** to ensure that our profession is properly represented. Make your voices heard and help make sure the safety of our patients is not compromised.

Thank you for your dedication and your passion.

Yours In Service,

John D. Smith
OATA President