

To: THE SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

Re: House Bill 665: Licensure and Regulation of Athletic Trainers

From: Elizabeth Ikeda, PT, DPT, MS, MTC, OCS

Date: April 13, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elizabeth (Beth) Ikeda and I am an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy (PT) at The University of Montana. I have taught in the Physical Therapy Program for 17 years and have taught athletic training (AT) students in classes within our curriculum prior to our conversion to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. In the past, I acted as a consultant for the AT program during their accreditation. In addition, I am board certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and practice part time. I see a variety of patients, including collegiate and professional athletes.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of HB 665 as presented by Representative Arntzen. This bill will protect athletes in organized sports from receiving care provided by unqualified personnel. In addition, it appropriately designates the population that athletic trainers have been educated to serve.

Physical therapists were opposed to this bill in its earliest form at the 2005 legislative session. This opposition has been referred to as a "turf war." It may have appeared that way, but let me assure you that this has always been an issue of PUBLIC SAFETY. Granting licensure is an assurance that the licensee is qualified to do the job for which he/she was trained. I have summarized the differences in education between AT's and PT's on the yellow handout (also see back). The AT didactic education is directed toward the care of competitive athletes and the AT practical experience is almost entirely with collegiate athletes. Therefore, based on educational requirements, athletic trainers should be licensed to work EXCLUSIVELY WITH ATHLETES.

Please take note that athletic trainers condition or re-condition athletes. Conditioning and re-conditioning are comprised of endurance and strength training for sport specific activities. The domain of Physical Therapy is rehabilitation of the Movement System. This includes evaluation and treatment of pathologies, injuries and surgeries in a diverse population (babies to the elderly) and addresses biomechanical and motor control dysfunction, as well as conditioning and reconditioning. The language of this bill is consistent with these concepts.

I support this bill as currently written. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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**COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND ATHLETIC TRAINING  
CURRICULUM  
PERTAINING TO HB 665**

<b>EDUCATIONAL COMPARISON</b>	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPY UM</b>	<b>ATHLETIC TRAINING UM</b>	<b>ATHLETIC TRAINING MSUB</b>
Degree	Doctor of PT, 7 years 109 credits + B.S. degree (120+ credits)	Bachelors of Science , 4 years 122 credits total (56 professional curriculum)	Master of Science 44-47 credits
General Orthopedics education	19-21 credits	9.5 credits	6+ credits
Patient/client examination	24+ credits	6+ credits	6+ credits
Clinical training	26 credits (all settings)	12 credits (exclusively athletes)	3 credits (with athletes)
Experience with non-athletes	1000+ hours	Minimal, if any	Minimal, if any
Medical pathology (non-athlete)	14.5 credits	Minimal	Minimal
Neurology	10 credits	Minimal	Minimal
Life-span (pediatrics to geriatrics)	5 credits	Minimal	Minimal, if any
Pharmacology	1.5 credits	Minimal	Minimal, if any

**RE: HB 665 LICENSING AND REGULATING ATHLETIC TRAINERS**

**COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND ATHLETIC TRAINING CURRICULUM**

<b>EDUCATIONAL COMPARISON</b>	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPY University of Montana</b>	<b>ATHLETIC TRAINING University of Montana</b>	<b>ATHLETIC TRAINING MSU-Billings</b>
Degree	Doctor of PT 7 years of college BS degree (120 credits) + 109 graduate credits	Bachelors of Science 4 years college 122 credits total (56 professional curriculum)	Master of Science 44-47 credits
General Orthopedics education	19-21 credits	9.5 credits	6+ credits
Patient/client examination	24+ credits	6+ credits	6+ credits
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Pharmacology	1.5 credits	Minimal	Minimal, if any

\*In 2007, over 80% of US physical therapy schools offer an entry-level Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The DPT is quickly replacing master's Degree programs. Medicare, and the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education have not accepted a bachelor's degree in physical therapy since 2002.