EXHIBIT 5
DATE 3/15/2013
SB 112

SB 112

Board of Athletic Trainers Testimony

House Education Committee

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, my name is Brian Coble and I stand before you today in support of SB 112 on behalf of the Montana Board of Athletic Trainers. I am a Licensed Athletic Trainer, and have been licensed since 2009. I am also on the Board and we have decided as a group that supporting SB 112 is in the best interest of protecting the athletes of Montana.

The Board of Athletic Trainers primary responsibility and obligation is to protect the public in Montana. The Board feels that although this bill is not perfect, it is still a good bill that will help protect some of the youth athletes in Montana. The Board feels the bill would be even better if SB 112 included all athletes, not just those involved in school or school district sanctioned athletics. This limitation in the bill still leaves a large portion of our youth athletic participants unprotected. Such sports as little guy football, youth hockey, youth soccer leagues and little league baseball will not receive protection under this bill. Also we would like to see all athletes in Montana receive this protection including the university or college level athlete. However with that said, the Board feels that even if the above provisions are not added to SB 112 it is still a very good bill that will help educate the athletic community and general public on the seriousness of concussions and the effects on our youth athletes. Our mission as a Board is to protect the public of Montana and we believe this bill helps accomplish that goal.

The members of the Board have reviewed the amendments to SB 112 and support them as well.

We respectfully request that you support SB 112. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time and interest. I'm available for question during this hearing.

Sincerely,

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Board Office

Cyndi Breen Reichenbach, Executive Officer
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Board Quick Facts

- The Board licenses and regulates athletic trainers.
- There are currently 126 active licensees.
- Since regulation was implemented in 2007, the Board has processed no complaints.
- Upon receipt of a licensure application at the Board office, it takes an average of 10 days to receive a license to practice as an athletic trainer in Montana.
- The Board consists of five members. All five members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- Board members serve four year terms.
- The Board meets a minimum of two times per year.

Board Contact Information

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Licensed Athletic Trainers

- As of February 1, 2013 there are 126 Licensed Athletic Trainers.
- 73 licenses were issued in 2008, 35 in 2009, 17 in 2010, 21 in 2011 and 19 in 2012.
- Licensed Athletic Trainers pay $175 for an application fee for initial licensure
- Licensed Athletic Trainers renew their license every year.

The duty of the Board goes beyond licensing and regulation. We are obligated to protect the citizens of Montana.

What is a State Athletic Trainer Board?

The Montana Board of Athletic Trainers' primary responsibility and obligation is to protect consumers through proper licensing and regulation of athletic trainers. The ability to practice as an athletic trainer is not an inherent right of an individual, but a privilege granted by the people of a state acting through their elected representatives. The public is protected from the unprofessional, improper and incompetent practice through laws and regulations. It is the duty of the Board of Athletic Trainers to regulate the practice.

Board Structure

Board membership is composed of volunteers who are charged with upholding the practice acts. Five voting members are appointed by the Governor. The occupation licensed and regulated by the Board has three representative members with the addition two members including a medical doctor and a public member of the public.

The Board is attached for administrative purposes to the Department of Labor and Industry. Funding comes from licensing fees. Any fines imposed are deposited into the general fund. Staff devoted to the Board includes licensing, legal, and an executive officer.

Licensure

Assembling a quality workforce to meet the needs of the public begins with licensure. Through the licensure process, the state ensures that individuals have appropriate education and training, and that they abide by recognized standards of professional conduct.

Regulation

The Board is charged with the responsibility of evaluating when a licensee's professional conduct or ability to practice as an athletic trainer warrants modification, suspension or revocation of the license to practice. The Board is designed to meet and devote time and attention, to oversee the practice by reviewing complaints from consumers, information from schools and other health care institutions, and reports from government agencies. The Board has the power to further investigate a complaint and can impose some form of discipline such as mandated continuing education or seek to restrict, suspend or revoke a license. To date, the Board has not been required to engage in this process as complaints against licensees have not been received.