



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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November 14, 2014

The Honorable Tom Buford
The Honorable Jeff Greer
Committee on Banking and Insurance

Dear Co-Chairmen Buford and Greer:

As Commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), I am writing in support of the efforts of the Kentucky Athletic Trainers' Society (KATS) to amend state law in a manner that would allow athletic trainers the opportunity to seek reimbursement for the services they provide. Specifically, our office supports amending KRS 311.903 by 1) removing current statutory language that prohibits athletic trainers from independently billing for their services, and 2) adding provisions that would allow athletic trainers to seek reimbursement for services performed within their scope so long as such services are prescribed by a Kentucky-licensed physician.

There are several reasons we believe it advisable to consider the adoption of these statutory changes.

1. The current scope of practice for athletic trainers will not change.
2. Athletic trainers will remain under the supervision of a licensed physician, and the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure will continue to regulate and license athletic trainers and their activities. Physician supervision of athletic training services has been an important hallmark of the athletic training profession and should be preserved.
3. Athletic trainers will become more financially self-sustaining within their practice setting if third-party payers ultimately reimburse for athletic training services. By becoming financially self-sustainable, athletic trainers, under the direction of the supervising physician, can have an increased presence in more schools across the state with the ultimate goal being the provision of athletic training services for every middle and high school athlete in the Commonwealth.

One of the longstanding goals of the KHSAA and our health and safety partners at KMA has been the emphasis on the safety of student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletics through the presence of Certified/Licensed trainers in each school. This was reaffirmed most recently with the HB383 (2009) Sports Safety Workgroup Final Report (<http://khsaa.org/reports/Final%20Report%20for%20SSWG.pdf>) where the recommendations once again included findings that mentioned funding and mechanisms (including the removal of billing restrictions) to allow trainers in all schools. The KHSAA supports KATS and its leadership for their efforts working with the Kentucky Medical Association and all other parties promoting the health and safety of the student-athletes, along with the Kentucky General Assembly for showing the leadership to discuss this important during the 2015 legislative session to revise KRS 311.903 as outlined above.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Tackett", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Julian Tackett
Commissioner