

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. On behalf of the Michigan Athletic Trainers' Society, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 184. This bill will move the continuing education requirements for license renewal from the statute into the general rules. I have three arguments I'd like to present:

As healthcare continues to evolve there will be need for the Board of Athletic Training and Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to update the continuing education of athletic trainers in the state Michigan to ensure quality delivery of healthcare and the safety of patients. As it stands now, if the Board and or LARA wanted to change the number of hours required to renew a license it must be done through the introduction of new legislation which is a cumbersome process for all involved.

Additionally in the current statute athletic trainers are required to maintain certification in First Aid in order to renew their Michigan licensure. With all due respect, a First Aid certification is levels below the education and training required of an athletic trainer in the area of emergency care. Athletic trainers are highly skilled in evaluating and delivering immediate care in emergency situations, and we feel this should be left to the Board of Athletic Training and LARA to determine if this type of continuing education should be required.

Finally, in regards to continuing education requirement this bill will bring athletic training on to equal footing with other healthcare professions in the state of Michigan, such as Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in that their continuing education requirements are determined by their respective board and LARA, and not included in their practice act.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have, and thank you for your time.