

3 June 2014  
Sunset Advisory Commission  
PO Box 13066  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Sunset Commission Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas State Athletic Trainers Association to request the opportunity to testify before the Sunset Commission board regarding the transfer of the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers from the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDHS) to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

The Texas State Athletic Trainers Association represents over 1500 licensed athletic trainers in the state of Texas. Our mission is to promote, advance, and enhance the athletic training profession within the state of Texas.

As part of a complete healthcare team, the licensed athletic trainer works under the direction of a physician and in cooperation with other healthcare professionals, public health officials, administrators, coaches and parents. The licensed athletic trainer gets to know each patient/client individually and can treat injuries more effectively. The American Medical Association (AMA) has recognized athletic training as an allied health care profession since 1990.

Athletic trainers work in a variety of different professional settings, including: professional & collegiate sports, secondary & intermediate schools, sports medicine clinics, hospital ER & rehab clinics, occupational settings, performing arts, law enforcement and military, physicians' offices.

The athletic trainers in Texas are on the frontlines of public health issues that affect the populations we treat on a daily basis. In each work setting, athletic trainers are charged with the responsibility of recognizing, treating and managing injuries and illness, and educating internal and external publics regarding public health issues. Whether it is concussion, sickle cell disease or trait, MRSA, or other infectious and communicable diseases, the athletic trainers in Texas are a vital part of the public health solution when it comes to care, management, and prevention of public health conditions.

Most recently, House Bill 2038 was passed into law to ensure that the concussion epidemic in youth and school sports was addressed with appropriate education, training, interventions, treatment and management. Athletic trainers in Texas are on the forefront of education and change as we work collaboratively with local hospitals and state health agencies to improve the quality of concussion care and education across the state. To ensure seamless collaboration with our colleagues in other health care professions, and for the sake of the patients we treat, the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers should continue to operate within the Department of State Health Services.

In this current sunset review, the only allied health professional group recommended for transfer from TDHS to TDLR is the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers. For the reasons outlined in this letter and for the protection of the patients served by licensed athletic trainers, our organization respectfully requests the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers remain with the Department of State Health Services.

Respectfully,



Scott Galloway LAT, ATC  
Chair, Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association



James Galloway



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Scott Galloway MBA, LAT, ATC  
Chair, Board of Directors

Spanky Stephens LAT  
Executive Director