



The NHATA urgently needs your help...

There is new legislation before the NH Senate, SB423: *relative to health insurance coverage for licensed athletic trainer services*. The Senate Commerce, Labor and Consumer Protection Committee had its' first hearing on the proposed legislation on Thursday afternoon, March 4, 2010. There was a nice contingent of athletic trainers present to testify and show their support of the legislation. However, there is opposition to this bill within the state and the NHATA urgently needs your help and support.

Please take a few minutes to make a phone call, write a letter, or send an email to the members of the committee to express your support for the legislation. Ask others to do the same. One contact from a constituent can sometimes make the difference between a yeah or nay vote. We expect the committee to make a decision regarding whether to move the legislation forward to the full senate shortly so time is of the essence. This legislation is critically important to the future practice of athletic trainers within the state of New Hampshire. If you are not familiar with the legislation, please visit the link below and select "Quick Bill Search" and type in "SB423" to access the full text of the bill. <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/DEFAULT.HTML>

The NHATA executive council asks that you please confine your comments to positive statements in support of athletic training. Some talking points to consider:

- Athletic Trainers are fully qualified, certified, and licensed health care professionals.
- Athletic Trainers are currently denied reimbursement from insurance companies for rehabilitative services they are fully qualified to provide.
- SB423 is not an insurance mandate. It is legislation to provide athletic trainers with fair practice and equal access to insurance reimbursement for those treatment and rehabilitative services, within the scope of practice for athletic trainers, which are **already being rendered by and reimbursed to** some other provider. The legislation is not asking for expanded coverage of medical services or health insurance dollars beyond that of recognizing athletic trainers as reimbursable providers of rehabilitative services.
- SB 423 is about allowing physicians the right to choose the service provider they feel most appropriate to meet their individual patient's needs.
- Qualifying for health insurance reimbursement will expand the employment opportunities for Athletic Trainer's within the state of New Hampshire. New Hampshire clearly supports athletic training as evidenced by the five accredited athletic training education programs at four of the state's colleges and universities.
- Students, consider emphasizing the importance of professional equity, respect and recognition of athletic training services and the possibility of expanded job opportunities for you as an athletic trainer within the state of New Hampshire.
- Expanded opportunities for the employment of athletic trainers in clinic outreach settings provides a valuable service to schools that would otherwise be unable to afford hiring an athletic trainer. This also has the potential to save health care dollars by avoiding unnecessary emergency room visits and referrals by having a qualified professional available to provide medical services on site.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Liesl Lindley, President NHATA, via email at llindley@plymouth.edu or president@nhata.org or call at (603) 254-9630; Tate Erickson at TErickson@Cheshire-Med.com; or Peter Thurber at pthurber@colby-sawyer.edu

**Contact Information for the NH Senate
Commerce, Labor and Consumer Protection Committee**

To find your state legislators and/or confirm what District you reside in, you may go to the following website and type in your town <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/whosmyleg/>

Sen. Margaret Hassan, Chair (District 23)

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Sen. Jacalyn Cilley (District 6)

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Sen. Betsi DeVries, Vice Chair (District 18)

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