

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon and for all of your work during the 407 process.

Let me begin with an introduction, my name is Rob Marshall and I have been an Athletic Trainer for over 25 years. During that time, I have worked in Physical Therapy clinics, Hospitals and with high schools and colleges. Currently I serve as the Athletic Training Program Manager for Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

I would like to take a few minutes to share a story with you, that illustrate to you why these suggested changes to the Athletic Training Practice Act need to be made. Morgan (name changed to protect privacy) was an athlete of mine several years ago. Morgan was a shy young athlete just starting her high school career. As a freshman Morgan, was participating in some off-season conditioning in the fall to prepare for the upcoming basketball season. While on a run with her teammates, Morgan stepped on a pinecone of all things and ended up with a grade two inversion ankle sprain. I performed a full evaluation with Morgan and began our protocols to start her recovery process. I remember the call to Morgan's mom to tell her what had happened, she was so thankful that the Morgan had someone there to guide her recovery. This encounter started my four year relationship Morgan that included many injuries and successful rehabilitations. It included an MCL knee sprain and a rotator cuff strain just to name a few.

Morgan was a great young lady that really enjoyed her high school athletic career but wasn't able to continue with sports when she went to college. Close to the end of her first semester in college, Morgan stepped off a curb while crossing campus on her way back to her dorm room. When she arrived at her room she realized how much pain she was in and that her ankle had started to swell. So, as she had done many times before during the previous four years, she called me and asked if I could take a look at her ankle when she returned home that weekend.

It was hard for me to explain to Morgan why I couldn't evaluate her ankle and set her up on a rehabilitation plan. Morgan didn't understand why she could not see Rob for her injury. While there are a couple of reasons that I couldn't see her-the first being that she was no longer an student-athlete at the school where I worked, so seeing her would violate the physician guidelines that I worked under, it was the following reason that she really struggled to understand. As I tried to explain that because she was no longer an "athlete" my license didn't allow me to work with her. I remember her exact response, "you mean that an athlete sprains their ankle differently than I do?" "Rob I trust you and 9 months ago when I was in track it was ok but now it's not"? I wasn't sure what to say to Morgan that day, she was confused and she was angry.

Later that day I received a call from Morgan's mom, Deb (name changed again to protect privacy). We talked at great length and Deb explained that she and Morgan trusted my opinion and that they wanted Morgan to work with an Athletic Trainer for this injury. At the end of the conversation I thanked Deb for the trust and explained again that as the law in Nebraska reads now, neither myself nor any athletic trainer could work with Morgan. Deb remarked that it just wasn't right, they should have the choice to work with the health care provider that they choose.

I agree with Morgan and her Mom. It doesn't make sense that, as an Athletic Trainer, I am trained to deal with this injury and because the patients "label" changes I am not allowed to treat the injury. As a

licensed health care provider you are either trained to deal with a situation or you are not. This is an example of an injury Athletic Trainers are educated and trained to treat and yet it's the patient that must suffer due to an antiquated law.

Today as a committee, I simply ask that you approve these changes that have been brought before you and allow patients to have the choice to seek out the health care provider that is trained to best meets their needs.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,

Rob Marshall, LAT, ATC