



September 8, 2020

Dear Credentialing Review Committee,

My name is Tory Lindley. I am an athletic trainer, and I proudly serve as the President of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, a professional organization representing more than 45,000 members. One of my duties as President is to provide policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels with insight into the athletic training profession. Thank you for allowing me to participate in this hearing and this portion of the process.

Athletic trainers are licensed, board certified health care professionals with, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in athletic training from an accredited institution. Nationally, more than seventy percent of the profession has a master's degree or higher level of education and the profession will transition to a master's degree requirement by 2022. The American Medical Association recognizes athletic training as an allied health care profession and athletic trainers are included under the allied health professions category, as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations and disabilities. In collaboration with physicians, athletic trainers provide medical services to all types of patients in many settings. Across the United States, in addition to work in traditional sports team settings, athletic trainers are employed in performing arts, public safety, occupational health, and with the military. In response to the current pandemic, many athletic trainers across the country have been called to the front lines, assisting with intake and screenings, helping to triage patients more effectively and efficiently through the health care system.

Athletic trainers play a vital role in health care, and we continue to work closely with other health care providers to identify ways to meet the growing need for access to quality care. By working together, we ensure our patients receive the care they need, want, and deserve. The NSATA has worked collaboratively with numerous groups and stakeholders within the state. This type of collaboration is reflective of work that is being done at the national level between the NATA and the APTA. In April 2019, the NATA and APTA issued a joint statement in which both organizations promoted collaborating to promote the health and wellness of individuals as well as to engage in efforts to advance population health. The statement further emphasized the need to promote regulation that represents the education and training of each health care profession and collaborate to increase access to both athletic trainer and physical therapists services. A full copy of the statement is included with the written testimony.

I am encouraged by the work of the Nebraska State Athletic Trainers' Association to update the state practice act. By amending the current statute, lawmakers ensure athletic trainers in this state have the ability to practice at the same level as athletic trainers in other states, while also making health care more accessible to Nebraskans.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Deanna Kuykendall, NATA's manager of state government affairs, at [deannak@nata.org](mailto:deannak@nata.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tory Lindley MA, ATC'.

Tory Lindley, MA, ATC  
NATA President