



**DATE:** January 25, 2018  
**FROM:** State Representative Adam Neylon  
**TO:** Assembly Committee on Health  
**RE:** Supporting Assembly Bill 766

Good morning, Chairman Sanfelippo and members of the Committee on Health.

It was brought to my attention by a constituent that many sports medicine professionals regularly face great professional risk when they travel from state to state. Sports medicine professionals are responsible for the organization, management and provision of treatment for the athletes under their care. When sports teams travel across state lines, the team physician may not be able to legally treat their injured players because they lack a medical license in that state. Their choice then is to treat their players without a license, with potentially serious legal consequences, or hand that athlete over to another professional who is not familiar with the individual's medical history. This bill is designed to correct this dilemma, by exempting sports team physicians from licensure requirements, under certain circumstances.

The physician must be licensed in good standing to practice medicine in their own state. They must have a written or oral agreement with a sports team to provide treatment at a specific sporting event in this state. They must be invited to provide their services by a national sports governing body, for example, the NCAA, at an event or a competition in this state. The physician's practice must be limited to service that are within his or her training and expertise.

The goal of AB 766 is to simply let visiting team doctors treat their patients here in Wisconsin. It does not give traveling sports medicine professionals the ability:

- To treat any person residing in this state, other than a member of their sports team.
- To practice at a health care facility or clinic in this state.
- To prescribe drugs.
- To practice here beyond a limit of 10 days per sporting event, with extensions granted by the Medical Examining Board not to exceed 30 days.

This legislation is common-sense, and has been done, in one form or another, in more than 30 states. Half a dozen states have introduced similar legislation recently, and the governor of Georgia signed their version of this bill in 2017. The US House of Representatives passed the federal version of this legislation, HR 302, in January 2017. AB 766 is supported by the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association, among others.

This bill will allow traveling sports medicine professionals to provide their patients with continuous, quality medical care, without incurring legal and professional risk, and it should be something we can all support.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee members may have.



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# HOWARD MARKLEIN

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STATE SENATOR • 17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**January 25, 2017**  
**Assembly Committee on Health**  
**Testimony on Assembly Bill 766**

Good Morning!

Thank you Chairman Sanfelippo and committee members for taking the time to hear testimony on Assembly Bill 766. This common sense reform will allow traveling sports medicine professionals to treat the athletes on their team.

Simply put, this bill creates a narrow exemption to allow traveling sports medicine professionals to do their job without fear or professional risk. Currently, medical professionals serving on sports teams must have a Wisconsin license to treat members of their team when traveling to our state.

For instance, when the Packers played the Bears in Lambeau Field last year (one of the few games we actually won), if a Bears player was injured, technically their team physician needed a Wisconsin license to attend to that player. As you can imagine, this affects all NFL, MLB, and NBA teams that play in our state, as well as NCAA athletics, and other sports tournaments held in Wisconsin.

Assembly Bill 766 helps relieve the administrative burden and costs of having to apply for a license in multiple states, while keeping necessary safeguards in place. Under the bill physicians must be properly licensed, accredited and in good standing in their home state. This exemption only pertains to sports physicians hired by a sports team traveling to Wisconsin. The bill does not give traveling sports medicine physicians the ability to treat anybody other than the members of their team, practice at a health care facility in this state or prescribe drugs in this state.

This idea been supported by a long list of health organizations including: the Wisconsin Medical Society, Medical College of Wisconsin, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians. It has also received bi-partisan support in the Legislature. I would appreciate your support for this common sense proposal as well. Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions about the bill.



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**Assembly Committee on Health – Assembly Bill 766 (SUPPORT)**  
**Testimony provided by**  
**Dr. Austin J Crow, MD**  
**Chippewa Valley Orthopedics and Sports Medicine**  
**Team Physician University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**

Chairman Sanfelippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Assembly Bill 766. My name is Austin Crow. I am an orthopedic sports medicine surgeon at Chippewa Valley Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Eau Claire. I am also the team physician that covers the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Blugold sports teams, including football, hockey, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, track & field and golf. It is a great privilege to take care of these athletes during their careers here at UWEC.

Sports teams typically have at least one team physician to care for their athletes. Sports teams at all levels of competition frequently cross state lines for competition. This includes high school, college, semi-professional, professional, Olympic, and national. Team physicians have been caring for their own patients at sporting events for many decades.

There are currently no laws regarding licensure for physicians visiting Wisconsin with sports teams. The standard of care is for physicians who travel with their sports teams to provide care for their team and travel party. Since there is no law for visiting physicians, physicians who take care of their own patients can create a risk for potential prosecution for practicing medicine in Wisconsin without an appropriate license. Currently, 25 states have statutes that exempt traveling team physicians from state licensure when they visit their state to care for their own team. An additional eight states have introduced bills to address this issue.

Assembly Bill 766/Senate Bill would exempt physicians licensed in other states who are practicing at sporting events from being required to be licensed in Wisconsin. These exemptions are subject to restrictions and limitations. The physician must be in good standing in state where he or she holds a current license, the physician must have a written or oral agreement with a sports team to provide care to team members and coaching staff while traveling with the team for a specific sporting event, or the physician has been invited by a national sport governing body to provide services at a national sport training center in Wisconsin. The bill also allows the Medical Examining Board to enter into agreements with similar boards of other states to implement the bill.



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It's important to emphasize that the optimal care is best delivered by a patient's own physician. This legislation would protect physicians visiting from other parts of the country who are focused on delivering the best quality care for their own patients, regardless of location. Removing this administrative burden from these physicians would let them practice without fear or concern of repercussion.

I would like to thank Representative Neylon and Senator Marklein for introducing this legislation to help support team physicians when they travel and treat their patients in the state of Wisconsin. I thank the committee for taking the time to consider this important bill and I would be happy to take questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Austin Crow, MD  
Chippewa Valley Orthopedics and Sports Medicine  
Team Physician University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire



Office of Government and  
Community Relations

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Health

**FROM:** Craig Young, MD  
*Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery & Community and Family Medicine*  
*Medical Director of Sports Medicine*

**DATE:** January 25, 2017

**RE:** Please Support AB 766, Licensure Exemption for Sports Medicine Physicians

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The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) supports Assembly Bill 766 (AB 766), legislation creating a licensure exemption for out-of-state sports medicine physicians providing care at certain sporting events and facilities in Wisconsin. MCW applauds Representative Neylon and Senator Marklein for authoring this legislation on behalf of the health and well-being of out-of-state athletes traveling to Wisconsin for athletic competitions.

This legislation will put Wisconsin in line with numerous other states which successfully grant temporary licensure exemptions for physicians traveling with athletes and teams. For background, I am a practicing sports medicine physician, and have had the privilege to work with the US Olympic committee facility in Colorado Springs, CO. In that capacity, I was granted temporary privileges to practice medicine at the USOC training facility, without needing to obtain a Colorado state medical license.

These types of exemptions not only eliminate significant and unnecessary regulatory burdens for physicians, but they allow athletes to maintain personal physician-patient relationships. I can attest that there is no better care for patients and athletes, than to be cared for by their own physician. I am always happy to assist the physicians traveling with opposing teams during their visits to Wisconsin, but out-of-state athletes will be best served by having their own physicians caring for them.

This legislation will place responsible practice parameters around physicians who come to Wisconsin to care for athletes. These physicians must be licensed and in good standing within their state, and must have obtained a written or oral agreement with their sports team to provide care for a specific sporting event in Wisconsin. Among other requirements, the physician must also have been invited by the relevant sport governing body to provide medical services to the athletes.

As currently drafted, however, MCW is concerned the bill could actually allow out-of-state physicians to provide care to any team members and coaches at certain sporting events, not solely to the team members and coaches the physician is actually traveling with. MCW recommends a simple amendment on page 2, lines 10-13, to more clearly specify that the physician's services would only apply to the team members and coaches the physician is directly affiliated with.

Thank you Chairperson Sanfelippo and members of the Assembly Committee on Health for your consideration of this important legislation. Please don't hesitate to contact Nathan Berken, MCW's Director of Government Relations, at 414.955.8588, or [nberken@mcw.edu](mailto:nberken@mcw.edu), if you have any questions or need additional information.



# Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

TO: Assembly Committee on Health  
Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chair

FROM: Eric Pifel, MD

DATE: January 25, 2018

RE: **Support** for Assembly Bill 766

On behalf of nearly 13,000 members statewide, thank you for this opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 766, which will enhance visiting team physicians' ability to care for their athletes. I am Eric Pifel, MD, an orthopedic surgeon who often treats team sport athletes – I am a team physician for several organizations, including the Milwaukee Wave, the Brewcity Bruisers and the Milwaukee Hurling Club. I'm also testifying as a member of the Wisconsin Medical Society, which supports the bill.

Currently, sports medicine professionals traveling over state lines with a team are not allowed to treat a patient while in those states unless the physician holds a license to practice medicine from a medical examining board of the state that team is visiting. This can be an administrative and costly burden for a team physician – especially if that team travels to many states over the course of a season.

Assembly Bill 766 helps solve this issue by providing visiting physicians with a very limited exception to the in-state license requirement. Under the bill, a visiting physician with a written or oral agreement with a sports team may administer sideline evaluations, triage and diagnostic services to a team's athletes and coaching staff. The physician may also practice if a national sports government body has invited the physician to provide services a national training center located in Wisconsin or a sanctioned competition or event held in our state.

The bill ensures that this exception is limited in scope. Under the bill, a visiting physician must defer to a Wisconsin-licensed physician if an athlete or staff member needs to be transported to a local health care facility. The bill also does not grant prescribing rights to any out-of-state staff. The bill establishes a limited time for this exception to be in effect: 10 days. If a competition will last longer than that, the physician must petition the state's Medical Examining Board for a 20-day extension. No visiting physician would be allowed to practice in the state for more than 30 days of any one calendar year.

More than 30 states have already passed similar legislation, including every state surrounding Wisconsin.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide our strong support for Assembly Bill 766. We especially want to thank State Assembly Representative Adam Neylon and State Senator Howard Marklein for being the lead authors on this helpful, common-sense legislation.



School of Medicine  
and Public Health  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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**Assembly Committee on Health – Assembly Bill 766 (SUPPORT)**  
**Testimony provided by**  
**Dr. Geoffrey S. Baer,**  
**University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health**  
**January 25, 2018**

Chairman Sanfelippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Assembly Bill 766. My name is Geoff Baer. I am a Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health. I specialize in sports medicine and am the Head Orthopedic Team Physician at the University of Wisconsin. I provide medical care for Badger Football, Soccer, Wrestling and Spirit Squads and have previously provided coverage for the UW Men's and Women's Hockey Teams.

Sports teams typically have at least one team physician to care for their athletes. Sports teams at all levels of competition frequently cross state lines for competition. This includes high school, college, semi-professional, professional, Olympic, and national. Team physicians have been caring for their own patients at sporting events for many decades.

There are currently no laws regarding licensure for physicians visiting Wisconsin with sports teams. The standard of care is for physicians who travel with their sports teams to provide care for their team and travel party. Since there is no law for visiting physicians, physicians who take care of their own patients can create a risk for potential prosecution for practicing medicine in Wisconsin without an appropriate license. Currently, 25 states have statutes that exempt traveling team physicians from state licensure when they visit their state to care for their own team. An additional eight states have introduced bills to address this issue.

Assembly Bill 766/Senate Bill would exempt physicians licensed in other states who are practicing at sporting events from being required to be licensed in Wisconsin.

These exemptions are subject to restrictions and limitations. The physician must be in good standing in state where he or she holds a current license, the physician must have a written or oral agreement with a sports team to provide care to team members and coaching staff while traveling with the team for a specific sporting event, or the physician has been invited by a national sport governing body to provide services at a national sport training center in Wisconsin. The bill also allows the Medical Examining Board to enter into agreements with similar boards of other states to implement the bill.

It's important to emphasize that the optimal care is best delivered by a patient's own physician. This legislation would protect physicians visiting from other parts of the country who are focused on delivering the best quality care for their own patients, regardless of location. Removing this administrative burden from these physicians would let them practice without fear or concern of repercussion.

I would like to thank Representative Neylon and Senator Marklein for introducing this legislation to help support team physicians when they travel and treat their patients in the state of Wisconsin. I thank the committee for taking the time to consider this important bill and I would be happy to take questions at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Baer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey S. Baer MD, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
Orthopedic Team Physician – UW Football, Wrestling, Men's and Women's Soccer,  
Spirit Squads  
Head Orthopedic Team Physician, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Assembly Committee on Health – Assembly Bill 766 (Support)

Michael Moll, MEd., LAT  
University of Wisconsin – Intercollegiate Athletics  
Assistant Director of Athletics for Sports Medicine  
January 25, 2018

Chairman Sanfelippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of Assembly Bill 766. My name is Michael Moll. I work as the Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine at the University of Wisconsin and serve as the Athletics Health Care Administrator. In my role, I am responsible for the oversight of the medical care provided to our student-athletes that participate in 23 varsity sports.

Athletic teams often have a variety of medical providers that provide care to the participating athletes. At the University of Wisconsin Madison, we have 21 athletic trainers and 12 physicians who work with a variety of other health care professionals to provide care to our student-athletes. We are certainly not unique. This type of care is provided to many professional and intercollegiate athletes that travel to our state for a variety of competitions. As athletic trainers, we are fortunate that our state Athletic Training Practice Act allows for an exemption of our licensure law for athletic trainers that are credentialed in another state to work in Wisconsin on a temporary basis for a specific event. However, physicians who travel to Wisconsin for athletic events to provide care to the athletes that they treat on a regular basis have no such protection. They are at risk for potential prosecution for practicing medicine without the appropriate license in Wisconsin.

Assembly Bill 766 would exempt physicians licensed in other states that are working at athletic events from being required to be licensed in Wisconsin. Whether we are hosting an event at Camp Randall or at the Kohl Center, we certainly want the care provided to the athletes participating to be exceptional. The individuals that can best deliver this care are the sports medicine providers that have an established relationship and are aware of that athlete's medical history. This legislation would protect physicians visiting from other parts of the country who are focused on delivering the best quality care for their own patients, regardless of location.

I would like to thank Representative Neylon and Senator Marklein for introducing this legislation to help support sports medicine physicians that travel with their patients for athletic events in Wisconsin. I would also like to thank the committee for taking the time to consider this important bill and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.