

# Mike Kuglitsch

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 84<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

DATE: May 18, 2021  
RE: **Testimony for 2021 Assembly Bill 315**  
TO: Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform  
FROM: Representative Mike Kuglitsch  
SUBJECT: The Practice of Athletic Training

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Thank you Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee for your consideration of Assembly Bill 315—which makes changes to the regulation of Athletic Training.

Athletic Trainers (ATs) are licensed Health Care Professionals who work with their patients on the prevention, examination, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of emergent, acute or chronic injuries and medical conditions. Athletic Trainers are located not only in our professional, collegiate, and high school sports facilities, but also work within outpatient rehabilitation clinics, physician practices, and industrial settings.

Athletic Trainers serve an important role in the protection of the health and safety of youth athletes, especially as our society becomes better informed on the potential dangers caused by failing to properly diagnose and treat concussions. The American Medical Association (AMA) formally recognizes athletic trainers as allied healthcare professionals and encourages the use of athletic trainers in every school that mounts a sports program.

The profession has grown significantly over the last twenty years, with ATs now being required to attend an accredited athletic training program and pass an examination to obtain National Board Certification.

With more than 70% of ATs currently holding a Master's Degree, it was recently decided by the AT Strategic Alliance, a governing body to athletic trainers, to require a Master's Degree for Board Certification moving forward.

With the growth of the profession, it makes sense to modernize the Athletic Trainer Practice Act to reflect those changes. Assembly Bill 315 eliminates the current requirement that ATs must have their evaluation and treatment protocol signed by a consulting physician.

While ATs currently work closely with physicians and will continue to do so after this change is made, AB 315 removes an administrative burden for ATs while not altering their scope of practice.

It is important to note that the bill does not change the requirement that if an AT determines a patient's medical condition is beyond his or her scope of practice, they must refer the patient to a health care practitioner who can provide the appropriate treatment.

Thank you Mr. Chair, I ask for your support of this legislation and I am happy to take any questions.



## PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: May 18, 2021

RE: **Testimony on Assembly Bill 315**

TO: The Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

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Thank you Chairman Sortwell and committee members for hearing my testimony in support of Assembly Bill 315 (AB 315).

Wisconsin first recognized Athletic Trainers with licensure in 1999. As part of that licensure, an athletic trainer had to consult with a physician while engaging in athletic training. In the last 20 years, the athletic training profession has grown tremendously, with more and more strenuous educational requirements to be board certified.

We would argue that it is time to modernize the athletic trainer licensing in Wisconsin. While most athletic trainers will still consult with physicians, it is no longer necessary for trainers to have a consulting physician “sign off” on their treatment plan. Some trainers may practice in an industrial or educational setting, where there isn’t easy access to a physician. Athletic trainers who are new to the profession, or to a community, shouldn’t be prohibited from practicing their profession until they find a consulting physician willing to sign the protocol allowing the trainer to engage in treatment.

Trainers will still recognize when a patient’s medical condition is beyond their scope of expertise and will refer the patient to a health care provider and consult with them if requested.

I believe in eliminating unnecessary regulations. I believe AB 315 will unburden athletic trainers from outdated and unneeded oversight and allow them to continue to deliver high quality care and treatment. I hope you will join me in supporting this bill.

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