

October 2, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
835 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

We, the undersigned organizations, would like to express our strong support for S.808, the *Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act*, and we respectfully request that you move this important piece of legislation through the committee process.

Under current law, many states do not provide legal protection for sports medicine professionals when traveling to a secondary state, and medical liability insurance carriers are not required to cover sports medicine professionals when they travel with their teams to states where they are not licensed to practice. In these circumstances, the health care professional must choose between treating injured athletes at great professional risk and handing over the care of an injured player to another professional who is not familiar with the individual's medical history.

The *Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act* would remedy this problem by clarifying medical liability rules for sports medicine professionals to ensure they are properly covered by their professional liability insurance while traveling with athletic teams in another state. This bill will help ensure that injured athletes have timely access to health care professionals who best know their medical histories and can provide seamless, expert, and efficient continuity of care throughout the duration of their injury.

As you may know, the House companion to this bill passed on a suspension of the rules in early January of this year, after initially passing last fall. The bill was modified several times throughout the committee process, and the final language is the product of a long-term, bipartisan, collaborative effort between members of Congress, committee staff, and legislative counsel, with input from a wide variety of stakeholders including sports medicine professional trade associations, the leading legal professional association, and the insurance trade association representing medical professional liability insurance groups.

Not only is the *Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act* an important piece of legislation that will help clarify medical liability rules for sports medicine professionals, but this piece of legislation also represents a phenomenal example of bipartisan success where all stakeholder groups came together on an issue to create a solution that is agreeable to all parties. Therefore, the undersigned

organizations urge you to move S. 808 through the committee process in the Senate. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Surgeons

American Medical Association

American Medical Society for Sports Medicine

American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society

American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

American Osteopathic Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

National Athletic Trainers' Association

North American Spine Society

Orthopaedic Trauma Association