



827 E. King Street  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
(704) 734-4550

February 27, 2022

Dear Committee:

As a father of two student athletes and as physician treating athletes in North Carolina since 2005, on the sidelines alongside athletic trainers in Cleveland and Gaston counties and serving my second term on the Board of Athletic Trainer Medical Examiners, I would like to share my experiences. Athletic trainers are medical professionals that treat athletes of which the majority are a large number of the children of North Carolina. The quality and character of these professionals is necessary to be maintained at a high level by an independent board that 1) reviews and accepts their physician approved plans of action, 2) makes sure they have satisfactorily completed the training and exams necessary for competency, 3) investigates complaints independent of other agencies and 4) levies actions upon athletic trainers that have issues. All with good accessibility through an electronic portal and at a very reasonable cost. Without this board's work athletic trainers would have the ability to treat people without regulatory supervision increasing the likelihood of harm to the mostly unaccompanied minors they treat. Physicians voluntarily assisting athletic trainers would be placed in a position of doing so for unregulated individuals making it unlikely that physicians would continue to do so voluntarily. Malpractice carriers will not like physicians to enter into these risky arrangements. Please consider the repercussions on athletic trainers and student athletes if the board is to be eliminated.

As I understand it, the other option is to continue athletic trainer regulation but combine the NCBATE with another existing board. Again, if decided upon, placing the NCBATE within another board hopefully will not eliminate the duties of the board as I outlined above. However, it is my opinion that an independent board is best for full attention on these medical professionals without conflicts of interest from the parent board. The NCBATE currently has the financial stability and provides quality supervision of the athletic trainers serving our communities. The physicians that assist can be confident that the NCBATE has independently approved and supervises these medical professionals. The quality and the confidence of the public in the quality of athletic trainers in our state is vitally important.

Thank you for your consideration.

You may reach me on my cell phone at 704 466 9239 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Carley", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey P. Carley, DO