



We, the Board of Directors of the Illinois Athletic Trainers Association (IATA), commend the recent actions of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) in their efforts to pursue legislation seeking federal recognition of athletic trainers within the Medicare system and endorse their on-going efforts. These actions are in keeping with the mission statements of both organizations in that they seek "to enhance the quality of health care provided by certified athletic trainers and to advance the athletic training profession."

Furthermore, we urge all members of the IATA to actively engage in activities that support the efforts of the NATA on this issue. These activities may include contacting their legislators, organizing campaigns through their patients and healthcare colleagues, and financial contributions.

As many of the nearly 1500 licensed athletic trainers (ATC) in the State of Illinois are also IATA members and part of the nearly 30,000 members of the NATA practicing world-wide, we wish to stand united as unique health care providers who specialize in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses.

And finally, we encourage all state and district athletic training organizations to adopt a similar resolution to underline our unanimous support of our national stance.

November 11, 2006