



The Board of Directors of the National Athletic Trainers' Association supports without qualification the Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act (S.3963) introduced by Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming. We implore Congress to work in a bipartisan fashion to quickly pass this legislation and:

- Restore patient access to high quality, medically necessary health care services
- Restore the ability of physicians to practice medicine and hire and supervise the most qualified health care professionals.
- Save money for the Medicare system by passing and implementing this law

Certified and licensed athletic trainers serve an estimated 16 million U.S. patients each year. Certified athletic trainers are unique health care providers who specialize in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses to patients of all ages. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports the 30,000 members of the athletic training profession through education and research.

NATA believes passage of this legislation will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have better access to quality health care provided by specialized, highly qualified health care professionals, which include athletic trainers. NATA estimated that 600,000 medically necessary physical medicine and rehabilitation sessions provided annually by athletic trainers to Medicare patients are going unmet as a result of a restrictive rule put in place by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2005.

NATA supports the belief that physicians are best qualified to determine the type of therapy treatments prescribed and to choose the best qualified professionals to deliver those services. NATA supports states rights in determining scope of practice for health care professionals.

NATA believes this legislation will help alleviate the current and future shortage of therapy providers, some of whom are very specialized. With the passage of the Act, athletic trainers, lymphedema therapists, low vision therapists, kinesiotherapists and others will again be able to provide services to Medicare patients in a cost-efficient method.

Respectively Submitted,

Chuck Kimmel, ATC
President
National Athletic Trainers' Association

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