



Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association
Working to strengthen the profession!



POSITION STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 260 - Athletic trainers-licensing

Sponsored by: Representative Harshman and Senator Larson

WyOTA Position: Support with Amendments

Summary

House Bill 260 provides for the licensure of athletic trainers. The bill amends the Occupational Therapy Practice Act to create the Occupational Therapy Practice and Athletic Trainers Licensing Act. The bill establishes licensure requirements for athletic trainers. The bill provides for definitions of "athlete" and "athletic trainer." The bill increases the number of board members and specifies that at least one board member must be an athletic trainer.

Discussion

- The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association (WyOTA) supports licensure for athletic trainers.
- Athletic trainers should have an independent board. The board should consist of licensed athletic trainers and a public member. The purpose of the Wyoming Occupational Therapy Board is to regulate the occupational therapy profession; even with the additional AT board member, the Board will not have the expertise to effectively regulate the athletic training profession. The Board will not have the expertise needed to develop rules and regulations to implement the statute.
- WyOTA is concerned that the Board will not have the financial resources needed to implement House Bill 260.
- The definition of "athletic training" is too broad. The bill states that "athletic training" includes the "treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning of an athlete whose injuries or condition is within the professional preparation and education of a licensed athletic trainer." The definition of "athletic training" should describe a unique and specific scope of practice for athletic trainers.

About Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. Occupational therapy assists people in developing the "skills for the job of living" necessary for independent and satisfying lives. Services typically include:

- Customized treatment programs to improve one's ability to perform daily activities
- Comprehensive home and job site evaluations with adaptation recommendations
- Performance skills assessments and treatment
- Adaptive equipment recommendations and usage training
- Guidance to family members and caregivers

About WyOTA

The Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association represents the professional interests of more than 150 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and students.

Contact

Sheri Montgomery, OTR/L
President, Wyoming Occupational Therapy Association
Phone: 307.789.6754
Email: fmontgom@wyoming.com

