

December 8, 2015

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6065

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6065

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Green:

We, the undersigned organizations, would like to thank you for holding a legislative hearing for H.R. 921, the *Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2015*. This bill would ensure sports medicine providers' ability to provide timely, high-quality health care services to injured athletes and team staff without the fear of incurring great professional loss.

As you are aware, many states do not provide legal protection for sports medicine professionals who travel to another state with an athletic team solely to provide care for that team. Compounding this problem, medical professional liability insurance carriers are not required to cover sports medicine professionals who deliver care to a member of their team during away games outside the insurance policy coverage area. As a result, these sports medicine providers must choose to either treat injured athletes at great professional risk, or turn the injured athlete over to local physicians who are not familiar with the athlete's medical history. Lastly, this bill preserves athletes' continuity of care and access to their team's health care providers where there is an established relationship that can continue post-injury. Your leadership on H.R. 921 will allow sports medicine providers to provide continued, high-quality health care services to injured athletes and team staff without the fear of violating local and state laws.

The undersigned organizations fully support this important piece of legislation and we look forward to working with you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Neurology
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Surgeons
American Medical Association
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
North American Spine Society
National Athletic Trainers Association

