

Thursday, September 17, 2020

CREP Members & Registered Exercise Professionals:

This past January, CREP became aware of a proposed bill in the State of Missouri regarding athletic trainers that was quickly moving through the legislative process. The purpose of SB670 was to repeal certain regulations relating to athletic trainers and enacting new rules.

The Missouri Athletic Trainers Association (MoATA) supported the bill and was working to advance it. Specifically, the title protection language they were seeking was “athletic trainer (AT), Licensed Athletic Trainer (LAT), athletic therapist, or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC).” CREP leadership spoke many times with MoATA regarding the bill’s language. MoATA expressed their intent was not to infringe, prohibit, or attempt to “own” any skill set, procedure, or patient population, including those represented by CREP. Rather, MoATA stated that the rules and regulations were to provide protections for the public as well as a greater framework for athletic trainers practicing in Missouri.

CREP was generally supportive of the bill’s purpose of recognizing and clarifying the broad scope of work that Athletic Trainers are qualified to perform and that reflects the good work that they do. However, CREP had concerns regarding some of the proposed language. CREP reached out to Missouri State Senator Lincoln Hough, whom introduced the legislation, on behalf of our collective 184,000 registered and certified exercise professionals, including over 4,800 in the State of Missouri. Our purpose was to request enhancements to the bill that would help differentiate and clarify the distinction between the professions of Athletic Training and other exercise professions.

It was CREP’s belief that the new definitions for the “Athletic Trainer” and “Athlete” contained within the bill could negatively impact key stakeholders including consumers, professionals, and employers in the State of Missouri. Specifically, our concern was regarding the absence of an exemption that recognized the ability of exercise professionals to practice within their scope of work. In an effort to avoid confusion and potential unintended consequences associated with the language in bill, we respectfully requested the following language be included in Section 334.721 2 where it states - **The provisions of section 334.700 to 334.725 shall not apply to the following persons:**

Exercise professionals (i.e., Personal Trainer, Group Fitness Instructor, Pilates Teacher, Exercise Physiologist, Clinical Exercise Physiologist, Strength and Conditioning Coach) with specific qualifications and/or hold certification(s) from a nationally accredited program in their respective area, who develop and implement physical fitness programs to improve health, fitness or sports performance for individual clients, patients, or organized groups.



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CREP also offered to serve as a resource in the process of crafting new language for the bill. This bill did not pass before the Legislature adjourned in May, but we believe that the likelihood of it being re-introduced in 2021 is very high. We continue to talk with MoATA and have agreed to work collaboratively to see that this bill, if re-introduced, will not negatively impact the professionals CREP represents.

As health occupations evolve, CREP recognizes that many states will consider introducing similar bills such as this one in the field of Athletic Training. We will continue to monitor their introduction and alert legislators of our concern if written similarly to the bill in Missouri. CREP will use our expertise to help them avoid bill language that creates confusion and potential unintended consequences associated with a failure to differentiate and clarify the distinction between the scope of practice for Athletic Training and other exercise professions, especially personal training.

We look forward to continuing to support the registered exercise professional. If you have any questions or concerns, please [contact us](#).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Biagioli'.

Brian Biagioli, Ed.D.
President, CREP Board of Directors