



March 6 ,2025

Proponent Testimony SB 175- Written Only

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Kansas School Nurses Organization-Legislative Chair

Chair Carpenter and Members of the Committee-

On behalf of the Kansas School Nurses Organization, I am giving written testimony in support of SB 175- Updating the definition of athletic trainer and providing an exemption for those licensed in another state, District of Columbia, territory or foreign country to practice in Kansas.

This bill allows licensed athletic trainers from other states to practice in Kansas when traveling with their teams for competitions.

Athletic trainers play a crucial role in ensuring the health and safety of athletes at all levels of competition. They provide essential injury prevention, treatment, and emergency care, making them indispensable members of traveling teams. Currently, athletic trainers licensed in other states face unnecessary barriers when accompanying their teams to Kansas, limiting their ability to provide immediate care when needed. SB 175 addresses this issue by allowing visiting athletic trainers to practice while in Kansas, ensuring continuity of care and enhancing athlete safety.

This legislation is important for collegiate and high school teams that regularly travel across state lines. Without it, athletes competing in Kansas may experience delays in care or be forced to rely on unfamiliar medical personnel who may not be as well-versed in their medical history or specific needs. SB 175 would align Kansas with other states who have adopted similar policies. This ensures that all athletes, whether Kansas residents or visitors, receive the highest standard of care.

This bill supports the goals of interstate mobility for licensed professionals, recognizing the highly regulated and standardized qualifications that athletic trainers must meet. It does not compromise public safety but rather strengthens it by allowing qualified professionals to operate within their full scope of practice while temporarily in KS.

Kansas School Nurses always want student athletes to have care provided quickly and by people who understand their needs best. This allows their team athletic trainer to provide care no matter where they are competing.

KSNO asks that you support SB-175.

Kimberly Martin, RN, MEd, BSN

KSNO Legislative Chair

On behalf of the Board of the Kansas School Nurses Organization