

To: Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Travis R. Oller, DC  
Executive Director  
Kansas Chiropractic Association

Date: February 6, 2024

Subject: 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.

### **Neutral Testimony**

Chairman Gossage and other committee members, I appreciate the opportunity to present Neutral testimony on SB 175.

The Kansas Chiropractic Association represents over 1,200 Doctors of Chiropractic in Kansas and their patients.

Several colleges and universities in the United States and around the world award doctor of chiropractic degrees. These degrees are subject to a rigorous accreditation process by the Council on Chiropractic Education and the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Doctors of Chiropractic in Kansas are licensed as Practitioners of the Healing Arts alongside Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Osteopathy. They are licensed to “diagnose and treat the human condition and all its diseases.” The only restrictions on our practice are the prescription of medication and the performance of surgery or obstetrics.

Doctors of Chiropractic are one of three license types in Kansas allowed to enter into a practice protocol with an athletic trainer.

SB 175 was introduced partially to address issues encountered by out-of-state athletic trainers after SB 131, the Sports Waiver Act, was passed in 2023.

SB 131 was introduced to ensure that athletes traveling to Kansas for competition or practice could be seen by their healthcare providers while maintaining safety and security for patients inherent in state-level licensure.

Sec. 2. (f) of SB 175 exempts any out-of-state athletic trainer from the requirements of licensure when treating members of “an athletic team or organization that traveled to Kansas.”

SB 175 does not define “athletic team” nor “organization” for the purposes of this reciprocity. We ask this committee to amend SB 175 to define “athletic team or organization” or to remove Sec. 2. (f).

The Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2018, 15 USC 8801, has a definition of an Athletic Team that can be used for these purposes:

ATHLETIC TEAM.—The term “athletic team” means a sports team— (A) composed of individuals who are paid to participate on the team; (B) composed of individuals who are participating in a sporting event or activity sponsored or sanctioned by a national governing body; or (C) for which a high school or an institution of higher education provides a covered sports medicine professional.

We ask the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee to amend SB 175 favorable for passage with the recommended amendments.

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