

February 16, 2023

2022-23 OFFICERS

President

Mark Stovak, MD, FAMSSM

1st Vice President

Marci Goolsby, MD, FAMSSM

2nd Vice President

Rebecca Myers, MD

Secretary/Treasurer

Stephen Paul, MD, FAMSSM

Immediate Past President

Amy Powell, MD, FAMSSM

2022-23 DIRECTORS

Casey Batten, MD, FAMSSM

Shelley Street Callender, MD, FAMSSM

Nailah Coleman, MD

Morteza Khodaei, MD, MPH, FAMSSM

Cynthia LaBella, MD, FAMSSM

Christina Master, MD, FAMSSM

Jason Matuszak, MD, FAMSSM

Nathaniel Nye, MD

David Olson, MD

Andy Peterson, MD, MSPH, FAMSSM

Anna Waterbrook, MD

Jason Zaremski, MD

4000 W. 114th Street,
Suite 100
Leawood, KS 66211
Phone: 913-327-1415
Fax: 913-327-1491
www.amssm.org

The Honorable Beverly Gossage, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas Legislature
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: SB 131 - Providing an exemption from licensure requirements for certain out-of-state physicians practicing on a limited basis in the state.

Submitted electronically.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM)—headquartered in Leawood, Kansas, and representing 4,900 board-certified sports medicine physicians across the nation—we respectfully submit this testimony regarding SB 131, providing an exemption from licensure requirements for certain out-of-state physicians practicing on a limited basis in the state.

Athletes who compete in intercollegiate or professional leagues often travel across state lines to attend tournaments, bowl and exhibition games, and other types of competitions. Ideally, the team physician, along with other healthcare professionals, travel with the athletes. However, despite the passage of federal legislation to address this issue, some state laws—including laws in Kansas—remain unclear regarding the out-of-state licensure of traveling team physicians.

SB 131 would clarify state law to allow team physicians licensed in another state to accompany and treat athletes traveling to Kansas, without having to obtain a separate license to practice medicine. This temporary status to practice medicine in Kansas is limited in three important ways:

- the short duration of time the team will be in Kansas for practice or competition;
- the infrequency and special nature of travel (*e.g.*, league games, tournaments, annual rivalries, bowl games, etc.); and
- the fact that the patients are also from out-of-state and attached to the team as an athlete or staff.

It is increasingly important for athletes to have team physicians and other healthcare professionals travel with the team to afford a

continuity of care for the traveling athletes. Team physicians bring a knowledge of medical histories, current medical status and treatments, as well as specific medical skills pertaining to sports medicine. Team physicians are focused solely on the care of the team's athletes and other traveling staff. There is no impact on the power to license or discipline licensees, as Kansas retains its authority over physician licensure and the oversight of healthcare professionals. Furthermore, there is no cost or fiscal impact to accommodate traveling team physicians who travel to Kansas.

As intercollegiate and professional sports become increasingly popular, as teams travel to venues in every state, AMSSM applauds the Committee for considering SB 131 and we encourage you to consider the benefit of clarifying state law regarding team physicians who travel to Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact AMSSM if we can answer any questions or be of service to you.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole Yedlinsky, MD
Kansas State Key Contact
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine

Mark Stovak, MD, FAMSSM
President
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine

Cynthia LaBella, MD, FAMSSM
Chair
AMSSM Practice and Policy Committee

Sameer Dixit, MD, FAMSSM
Chair
AMSSM Legislative Subcommittee