



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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January 9, 2017

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
United States House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Guthrie:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, we thank you for introducing the “Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2017” (H.R. 302). We support your efforts to provide liability protection for sports medicine professionals who provide medical services in a secondary state.

The current medical liability system presents a significant challenge to our nation’s health care delivery system. Currently, 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. In addition, medical liability insurance carriers do not cover sports medicine professionals when they travel with their team to states where they are not licensed to practice medicine. Consequently, these sports medicine providers must choose between either treating injured athletes at great professional risk, or abandoning the teams to whom they provide medical care.

Under your legislation, legal protection is provided for sports medicine professionals who travel to other states with an athletic team to provide care for that team. The AOA remains committed to enacting legislation that would create a more balanced liability system.

Again, thank you for your steadfast leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to call upon the AOA or our members for assistance on this priority issue.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO
President