

Senate Bill 457

The Alabama Occupational Therapy Association opposes this bill as it is currently written because **it endangers the healthcare consumer** by the possible misinterpretation to the patient as to whether or not athletic trainer services may be appropriate. This could happen in two different ways . . .

- The broad language of the bill implies that interventions from athletic trainers could be appropriately provided to *anybody*, not just athletes with athletic injuries

- Specifically, the use of the terms “any activity” and “other activity” in defining *athlete* and *athletic injury* may lead to confusion as to what conditions are appropriate for an athletic trainer to treat

Athletic trainer education focuses on providing services to athletes that have incurred an athletic injury and are otherwise healthy, and *does not* focus on competencies to provide rehabilitation services to individuals across a lifespan who have underlying health conditions or medical pathologies (neurological insults, comorbidities, etc.). As it is currently written, SB 457 poses a serious threat to healthcare consumers throughout the state of Alabama and should not be allowed to pass into law.