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Proponent Testimony SB 175
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Chair Carpenter and Members of the Committee:

I am providing written testimony in proponent for SB 175. This bill has two major points of focus. First, it would update the much-needed definition of an athletic trainer reflecting the changes in the educational preparation athletic trainers receive to obtain national certification. Secondly, provide an exemption for those licensed in another state, District of Columbia, territory, or foreign country to practice in Kansas. This bill will allow athletic trainers from other states to care for their athletes in Kansas when traveling with their teams and organizations 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. This bill will remove the barriers for athletic trainers to provide continuity of care when accompanying their teams to Kansas. SB 175 would align with not only neighboring states but many other states that have adopted a similar policy. Also, this bill will ensure uninterrupted continuity of care for in or out-of-state athletes.

The American Medical Association has been clear to recognize athletic training as a healthcare profession. Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians, strengthen and conditioning, nutritionists, chiropractors, surgeons, physical therapists, and many others in providing care to athletes/patients.

I strongly believe that SB 175 aligns with what the Board of Certification and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Trainers mission and standards of practice of athletic training. This bill does not expand the skill set or abilities of athletic trainers but merely updates those standards to where the national standards reside.

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