

## GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO ABOLISH ARIZONA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINING

1. Governor Napolitano is officially on record\* as stating that:

- Quality health care is essential for individuals involved in competitive sports activities;
- Athletic trainers (ATs) have a long history of providing quality health care for such individuals;
- In Arizona, ATs are licensed to perform specific health care functions for the benefit of such individuals, including: prevention of injuries and illnesses; recognition, evaluation and aggressive treatment; and rehabilitation and reconditioning;
- Athletic training was recognized by the American Medical Association in 1990 as an allied health care profession;
- In Arizona there are more than **400 licensed ATs** who are employed in professional sports, colleges and universities, high schools and junior high schools, Olympic and other elite amateur sports programs, youth and other community recreations sports programs, hospitals, physician's offices and sports medicine clinics; and
- Raising public awareness of the importance of the athletic training profession and emphasizing the importance of quality health care for those engaged in competitive sports activities in all of the aforementioned settings will improve health care for those individuals.

\* See Governor's Proclamations declaring March to be National Athletic Training Month in Arizona, in both 2006 and 2007.

2. In the Governor's published recommendation, the "Athletic Trainers Board" was the only health care regulatory board listed for "elimination." Moreover, regulatory boards for several other health professions which require far less education and professional preparation than athletic training, and which pose far less risk to the public, were listed for "consolidation," not "elimination."

3. Sunsetting this board only takes money from the general fund; it does not save the state anything:

- The Arizona Board of Athletic Training (AzBAT) is a 90-10 board: It is **self-sustaining** by fees generated through licensing process. 90% of monies go to board fund. **10% go into general fund**. So, we actually contribute money to the state, albeit a small amount

4. All licensed ATs possess a baccalaureate degree and more than 60% possess advanced degrees. They also pass a very stringent national examination recognized by the National Organization of Certifying Agencies.

5. In Arizona, licensed ATs provide healthcare to a population of competitive sports participants, which numbers well over 100,000 individuals; the majority of whom are children and adolescents.

6. It is not uncommon for licensed ATs to be the first healthcare professional to render care in serious or life-threatening medical emergencies, including cardiac and respiratory arrest, brain and spinal cord injuries, severe heat illness and severe injuries to bones and joints.

7. In addition to the above-listed medical emergencies, the common sports injuries and illnesses treated by licensed ATs on a daily basis can produce life-changing consequences if not properly recognized and treated by qualified and competent health care professionals.

8. Athletic training is state-regulated in 46 states, with licensure being the regulatory mechanism in the vast majority of those states.

9. Contrary to certain “rumors,” the Arizona Board of Athletic Training is fulfilling, and always has fulfilled, its legislative mandate to assure the competency of, and regulate the conduct of, licenses athletic trainers in this state.