



## What You Need To Know About the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act #SMLCA

### Summary

- The President of the United States has signed into law the **Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act** Friday, October 5, 2018.
- The act provides desperately needed national legal protection to athletic trainers, and other sports medicine professionals, who are required to travel outside their primary licensed state as part of their job.
- NATA was instrumental in getting the legislation introduced, moved forward throughout the process and passed. The passing of this bipartisan legislation is a historic day for the National Athletic Trainers' Association and its 45,000-plus members in their provision of athletic health care.
- While this bipartisan law advances safety practices for all sports medicine professionals, it will greatly impact athletic trainers who routinely travel with teams to provide preventative and immediate care. It recognizes, at an unprecedented level, the integral and lifesaving role athletic trainers, as well as all sports medicine professionals, play in athletic health care.

### Benefits of the SMLCA

- Sports medicine providers can now treat injured athletes across state lines with the protection of professional liability insurance and without fear of incurring great professional harm, such as monetary fines or loss of license to practice. The law preserves athletes' and athletic teams' access to sports medicine professionals who provide consistent and high-quality health care services, including injury prevention and injury assessment.
- Health care services provided by an insured sports medicine professional to an athlete, an athletic team or a staff member of the team outside of their home state will now be deemed to have occurred in the professional's primary state of licensure.
- This legislation treats medical services rendered in the secondary state as occurred in the primary state if the secondary state's licensure requirements are substantially similar to the primary state.

### Issue solved by the SMLCA

- Prior to the signing of this law, many states had no legal protection for sports medicine professionals whose jobs often require travel outside of their primary state where they are licensed.
- This was because medical liability insurance carriers did not cover activities performed while outside the boundary of their primary state. As such, providers were at great personal and

professional risk while executing their profession by not having the benefit of medical liability insurance.

***Document provided courtesy of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.***