



## **S. 689/H.R. 921 - SPORTS MEDICINE LICENSURE CLARITY ACT**

Sports medicine professionals are responsible for the organization, management and provision of care for athletes in individual, team, and mass participation sporting events. Oftentimes, these professionals travel with the athletes across state lines. However, most states do not provide legal protection for sports medicine professionals who travel to a secondary state, and 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.

In these circumstances, the sports medicine professional must choose between treating injured athletes at great professional risk or handing over the care of an injured player to another professional who is not familiar with the individual's medical history, and therefore approaches that injured athlete with a distinct disadvantage. The team sports medicine professionals add value to the treatment episode that cannot be duplicated by a physician who does not have a long-standing awareness of the individual athlete's medical history. **Sports medicine providers should not have to choose between treating injured athletes at great professional and financial risk, and reducing athletes' access to quality health care services.**

### **Why the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act Matters:**

For sports medicine professionals who travel into multiple states, obtaining and maintaining licensure in each state – especially under a scenario where they are not even providing medical care to residents of the secondary state – constitutes an excessively high administrative, cost, and risk management burden. Yet, sports medicine professionals should be able to engage in the treatment of injured athletes, whose medical histories they know well, across state lines without the fear of incurring great professional and financial loss. **H.R. 921/S. 689 aims to preserve the access of athletes and athletic teams to sports medicine professionals who provide high-quality, continuous health care services.**

### **The Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act Will:**

- **Provide Legal Protection for Traveling Sports Medicine Professionals:** H.R. 921/S. 689 stipulates that health care services provided by covered sports medicine professionals who travel to a secondary state with an athlete, athletic team, or staff member will be covered by the professional's medical malpractice insurance provider.
- **Allow Sports Medicine Professionals to Practice in Secondary States:** For the purposes of liability, health care services provided by a covered sports medicine professional to an athlete, an athletic team, or a staff member of an athlete or athletic team in a secondary state will be deemed to have been provided in the professional's primary state of licensure.

### **AAOS Recommends:**

The AAOS recommends supporting passage of S. 689/H.R. 921, the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act, into law.

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