

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD,
CT 06106-1591

Athletic Trainer Task Force

Meeting Summary

Friday, February 28, 2025

12:00 PM on Zoom and YouTube Live

I. Convene Meeting

- The meeting was convened by Gary Morin at 12:05 PM.
- Attendance: Gary Morin, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Jennifer Tirillo, Andrew Abraham, Robert McKee, Jessica Testani, Sara Montauti, Anna Knechtel
- Guests: Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Rowland Mayor

II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND PUBLIC INTERACTION

- a. Highlights from previous meeting
- b. Information forwarded to Legislature
- c. Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association (CATA) meeting at Eastern Athletic Trainers Association (EATA)

III. RELATED LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY SPRING 2025 SESSION

- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked members if they had any questions regarding last meeting.

- Sara Montauti asked if there is a bill number.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria answered that currently they do not have a bill number as the recommendations of the Task Force would be folded into a broader workforce development bill which should be coming out soon. She stated that she would share the bill number as soon as she gets it.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou reiterated that their recommendations would be folded into a broader bill and stated that they would like members to testify for the bill. She added that they would be able to help members in preparing for the public hearing. She thanked members for attending last meeting and asked Jessica Testani to expand about the EATA meeting.
- Jessica Testani shared that the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association (EATA) meeting was about educating members about the legislative process and catching them up.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked members if they had any questions.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria added that when they get the bill number it would be important to mobilize people to contact their state legislators.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou shared that they reached out to the national organization, and they could help in legislative outreach.
- Jessica Testani shared that they have reserved a space at the capitol for legislative advocacy and they will have a one-pager to hand out to legislators.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou added that the California Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA) has an annual legislative day and this year it will be March 26th. She shared that for members that attend they will have information ready to hand out and would like people outside the profession to attend to show support for Athletic Trainers.
- Gary Morin reiterated that they would need to contact their legislators and believes that it will be important for the Public Health Committee to hear from a diverse set of voices. He added that he would like to have athletic trainer students involved as they are intending to help the students.
- Jessica Testani shared that CATA has notified student programs around the state about mobilizing. She added that the national organization would form an advocacy campaign for them, and they will be able to assist in the public hearing process.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou shared that the information could be shared with the Task Force.

- Rowland Mayor shared that he knows multiple physicians that could testify regarding the athletic trainer profession.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou summarized next steps.
- Andrew Abraham shared that he would be happy to share his viewpoint in a public hearing and recommended people who could testify.
- Jennifer Tirillo stated that she could testify.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that they could send out a survey on how best to testify. She asked Rep. Klarides-Ditria how public hearings are held today.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria answered that public hearings are hybrid.
- Jennifer Tirillo added that she could speak with local legislators.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria added that the more people they contact the better.
- Anna Knechtel added that she would be happy to testify, and she could help reach out to parents.
- Gary Morin asked if the Task Force was lacking perspective from any groups. He added that they are lacking perspective from the college academic area.
- Rowland Mayor stated that he could connect with some people in the college academic area.
- Jessica Testani shared multiple names that would be key to have testify.
- Rowland Mayor added that he would be able to speak to Yale's situation.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked Rowland Mayor if there is anyone else from the state medical society that would be able to speak.
- Jennifer Tirillo shared multiple names that would be able to speak.
- Rowland Mayor shared that there could be multiple doctors that would be able to testify.
- Jessica Testani stated that they shouldn't be worried about the medical society handing in testimony and believes that there are various individual doctors that would be happy to submit testimony.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou shared that getting group testimonies is important to show the diverse impact athletic training has.

- Andrew Abraham added that they could have district superintendents testify.
- Rowland Mayor shared that he knows some superintendents that would testify.
- Robert McKee shared that he could get information regarding the impact of athletic trainer on programs.
- Andrew Abraham added that they could get someone from the official association.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked Andrew Abraham if he has a contact.
- Andrew Abraham stated that he could look around but believes that the CATA would be the best resource.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria stated that she can contact them.
- Gary Morin asked if members could get high school parents to testify.
- Jessica Testani shared that she could get high school parents to testify.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou summarized the various groups that they would be able to help testify and mobilize.
- Andrew Abraham asked if they have a template for testimonies.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou answered that they will have a template for testimonies.
- Andrew Abraham believes that they should connect with someone regarding athletic training in the private sector.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that they have emerging settings represented and they could find someone to testify regarding athletic training in the private sector.
- Jennifer Tirillo shared that she would be able to speak about emerging settings.
- Gary Morin stated that he knows some athletic trainers that could speak about emerging settings.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria reiterated the importance of mobilizing people and that legislators see the importance of an issue when multiple people have testified regarding the topic.

- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked the administrative staff if they would be able to send out the documents or if members are able to on their own.
- The administrative staff responded that either way is fine.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that they would create a shared drive that members would be able to edit before they finalize it and send it out. She asked Jessica Testani if that is allowed.
- Jessica Testani responded affirmatively.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked members if they have any questions and commented about the logistics regarding the creation of the documents.
- Sara Montauti asked if the Working Group will meet again to examine the work- life balance piece that the Working Group was discussing since the bill seems to only address the financial piece.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that they could set up another meeting to discuss that piece.
- Rowland Mayor believes that if they solve the shortage then it will automatically solve a lot of the other problems.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that after preparing for the public hearing they could set up another meeting to discuss that piece.
- Jessica Testani asked if the recommendations they turned in would be what they asked for.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated the recommendations could be edited once they see the language of the bill and decide what further steps are necessary.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria stated that they could amend the bill if they believe it doesn't adequately address their concerns.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that if they would like to amend the bill, then the language they would like would be in one of their written testimonies.
- Gary Morin asked Rep. Klarides-Ditria if the bill would be harder to amend considering the recommendations would be folded into a broader bill.
- Rep. Klarides-Ditria stated that if a section needs to be changed then they could amend that section.
- Gary Morin asked if the bill would apply to everyone or if it would be specified

to each group.

- Rep. Klarides-Ditria responded that it would be specified to each group.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou reiterated that they would need to see the language of the bill before they take any further steps.
- Anna Knechtel asked when the next meeting will be.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou announced that the next meeting will be on March 21st at 12:00 PM.

IV. PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Public Health Committee Testimony

V. Announcement of Time and Date of Next Meeting

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM