



ISSUE BRIEF

U.S. SENATE: PASS LEGISLATION TO ALLOW HEALTH PROVIDERS TO TRAVEL WITH SPORTS TEAMS

BACKGROUND:

Team physicians, including doctors of chiropractic, and other licensed sports health professionals often travel with their athletes to away games and other sanctioned sporting events outside of their home State. When providing care to an injured player during the game or in the locker room afterwards, they are often doing so at great personal and professional risk. If they are sued, their home State license could be in jeopardy and their malpractice insurance may not cover them.

Doctors of chiropractic currently serve all 32 National Football League teams and 28 of the 30 Major League Baseball clubs. Doctors of chiropractic can also be found serving teams in the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, the Professional Golfers Association of America and countless other professional and amateur sports teams.

THE ISSUE:

Early in the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 302, the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act, commonsense legislation that provides much needed clarity for health providers, teams, and individual athletes. The legislation provides that a sports health provider's liability insurance shall cover them outside of their home State for limited services within the scope of their practice. Also, to the extent that the healthcare professional is licensed under the requirements of their home State to provide certain services to an athlete or to a team, they shall be treated as satisfying corresponding licensing requirements of the secondary State in these narrowly defined instances.

H.R. 302 simply ensures that sports health professionals who contract with a team are covered by their medical liability insurance while traveling with their team. The bill also provides that any incidents of medical malpractice occurring under the care of a traveling team sports medicine professional must be treated as if it occurred in the professional's primary State of practice, regardless of where the game took place. Providers still would not be allowed to practice beyond the scope of their licenses, and they may only treat athletes participating in a particular game or match.

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ACTION NEEDED:

- **In January 2017, the House of Representatives passed unanimously H.R. 302, the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act.**
- The bill has since been sent to the Senate, where it was referred to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee for further action.
- Members of the Senate are encouraged to immediately voice support for H.R. 302, pass the bill and send the bill to the president for enactment.

For Additional Information Please Contact:

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