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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE USE OF LICENSED ATHLETIC  
TRAINERS IN OKLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOLS**

Oklahoma State Board of Health  
November 13, 2008

WHEREAS sports activities are an integral part of high school with more than 75,000 high school students in Oklahoma participating in school sponsored athletics, and

WHEREAS there are many health benefits to participating in sports during high school including weight management, increased self-esteem, and better strength, endurance, and flexibility, and

WHEREAS there are also risks associated with participation in high school sports with an estimated 18,000 Oklahoma high school students suffering a time loss injury each year, and

WHEREAS at least 8 Oklahoma high school students have died while participating in high school sports since 1999, and

WHEREAS licensed athletic trainers receive formal education and training in injury prevention, first aid/emergency care, and rehabilitation of injuries and can assist in reducing sports-related injuries and deaths in practices and competitions, and

WHEREAS licensed athletic trainers can immediately assess athletic injuries, including concussions and other potentially life altering conditions, and ensure that established guidelines for return to play are followed, and

WHEREAS licensed athletic trainers are recognized as providers of these professional services under Title 59 of Oklahoma Statute, sections 525-535, and regulated by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Supervision, and

WHEREAS the American Medical Association and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education each recommend that licensed athletic trainers be available to all schools with athletic programs, and

WHEREAS only 17% of Oklahoma high schools have access to a licensed athletic trainer, and only 7% of Oklahoma high schools have minimal coverage, and

WHEREAS sports-related injuries among high school athletes are a public health issue,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oklahoma State Board of Health supports legislation to make licensed athletic trainers available to all high schools in the state of Oklahoma.