

1. Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent of (Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_). I would like the Senator/Representative's support on legislation that needs to be passed before the end of this year (2005).
2. The National Athletic Trainers' Association supports a legislative change to reverse a recent, unauthorized policy change by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This policy restricts who can provide physical medicine and rehabilitation services to Medicare beneficiaries. Since June 2005, only physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language therapists can provide therapy services to Medicare patients in the physician's office under an "incident to" arrangement. This creates an unwarranted monopoly for the "approved provider" group.
3. Please reverse this CMS rule that harms seniors who are breast cancer survivors at risk of developing lymphedema, disabled veterans, blind and low vision patients and those seniors at risk for falls and the serious musculoskeletal problems that result from the falls.
4. This legislation is supported by NATA and the other 22 members of the Coalition to Preserve Patient Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services. See [www.coalitiontopreservepatientaccess.org](http://www.coalitiontopreservepatientaccess.org) for information and patient testimony.
5. Athletic trainers and other therapists in the Coalition are nationally certified, and, in most states, licensed. These qualified therapists practice under the direction of a physician in his/her office. The physician hires, supervises and takes responsibility and liability for the therapists' treatments. Their qualifications and capabilities are fact; this is contrary to misinformation being spread by another group that wants to limit competition by limiting the type of providers.
6. CMS abruptly reinterpreted this rule in 2004 after letting it stand for seven years. This significantly changes how physicians deliver physical medicine and rehabilitation care and who they can hire. This was a capricious and arbitrary change by CMS, which has offered no studies to support this harmful change.
7. This rule reduces the already limited number of allied health care professionals delivering this care. There is a severe shortage of therapists, and this rule only makes the problem worse. The job loss now and in the future is significant: about 1,000 athletic trainers have lost their jobs as well as about one-third of the lymphedema therapists who treat breast cancer survivors. Many more will lose their jobs, and patients will be unable to access medically necessary therapies.
8. Contact Bill Finerfrock at 202.544.1880 or [bf@capitolassociates.com](mailto:bf@capitolassociates.com) for information on what legislation is pending and how you can support the needs of Medicare patients and me as your constituent.
9. Thank you and when can I follow-up to see how the Congressperson will support this issue?