

Stephanie Mellen
Leeds
LD 828

To: Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Re: LD 828,

Dear Members of the Committee,

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Rep. Murphy and distinguished members of the Education & Cultural Affairs committee. My name is Stephanie Mellen. I am a resident of Leeds and practice alongside a Chiropractor at Full Circle Health & Wellness in Winthrop. I will be testifying in support of LD 828.

This bill is about restoring student access to qualified healthcare providers for their school related services such as physicals, concussion management, and return to play guidelines.

Having been working alongside Chiropractors for the last 5 or more years, I have been able to see firsthand how they have had very similar examination training to medical providers, including full systems analysis such as heart and lung auscultation, abdominal examination, and neurological examinations. Over the past several years I have come to respect their diagnostic capacity and feel that it is completely appropriate for a Chiropractor to perform a school physical or concussion management should they choose to.

Often Chiropractors are their community's local health resource. It would be vital to have more access to providers able to provide sports PE is essential so that our youth are not excluded from healthy lifestyle choices in extra curricular activities because their PCP office or urgent care offices are overbooked and unable to accommodate sports exams. If they are entrusted in the state to perform DOT physicals, I think it is completely appropriate to serve in a similar capacity for pediatric physicals.

In summary: If I were to perform a physical for a student, with my Chiropractic colleague performing another physical in the adjacent room, our notes would demonstrate the performing of almost identical exams, billing identical codes, and receiving identical reimbursement. I encourage you to support LD 828.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mellen, FNP