



Joseph Baldacci
Senator, District 9

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 828 An Act to Allow Chiropractors to be Designated as School Health Advisors

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Rep. Murphy and distinguished members of the Education & Cultural Affairs committee. I am Sen. Joseph Baldacci proudly representing the City of Bangor and the town of Hermon in Senate District #9. Here today to present LD 828.

I am sponsoring this bill on behalf of the Maine Chiropractic Association (MCA) to allow chiropractors to be designated as school health advisors.

Sports physicals are important and required by the Maine Principals Association (MPA) for athletes to participate in competitive sports programs.

Unfortunately, access to this care is being unnecessarily limited. Patients who have been receiving their sports physical, concussion management, and return to play guidelines from qualified chiropractic providers are being arbitrarily denied access.

Earlier this month, LD 790, An Act to Prevent Denial of Patient Access Through Collaborative Care was considered by the HCIFS committee. During our consideration of this bill, the testimony of proponents included the current barriers chiropractors are experiencing related to the performance of physicals and concussion management for student athletes in accordance with the scope of practice of their licensure.

The roadblock exists between the Board of Nursing and the MPA. The Board of Nursing communication dated 2017, which is attached, denies chiropractors' ability to perform these exams. Earlier this year, MCA reached out to the Maine School Nurses Association to discuss how chiropractic doctors can provide school sports physicals as allowed within their professional license. The response is on page 2 of my comments. The email reply defers to the MPA 2005 statement that is both outdated and contradicts the professional opinion of the Board of Chiropractic Licensure that chiropractor's scope of practice allows them to perform school physical exams. HCIFS, in deference to your committee jurisdiction over these policy issues, voted "Ought Not To Pass". From our discussion at HCIFS members do see this as discriminatory but that your committee is better suited to address this issue as it primarily involves school sports.



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As your committee considers this bill, that you evaluate the concerns raised by chiropractors and determine whether legislative changes are needed to recognize that chiropractors, in accordance with the scope of practice of their licensure, may perform physicals and concussion management for student athletes who choose a chiropractor as their health care provider.

At a time when the state has a lack of medical providers to address health care needs, this bill will restore student access to qualified health care providers for school physical examinations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph Baldacci- State Senate District 9