

Sheri Ryan

Executive Administrator



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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Walter Campbell. I am a Doctor of Chiropractic and a lifelong resident of Alaska.

I am an owner of 18 chiropractic clinics statewide, 6 physical therapy clinics, as well as 4 other multi-disciplinary clinics in Washington state. I am also serving my second term on the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

I am writing in support of SB69 sponsored by Senator Bill Stolze, both in my capacity as a Board member and as a practicing Doctor of Chiropractic/business owner. I have directly experienced several critical situations in my practice that would be alleviated by the clarifications this bill offers. One of particular interest to me, is clarifying the ability of a Doctor of Chiropractic to perform school athletics screenings/physicals.

Currently, not only does chiropractic statute allow a Chiropractic Physician to perform physicals for children entering schools, but also pre-employment and workplace health examinations, as well as disability and impairment ratings. Current chiropractic statute allows chiropractic physicians to authorize excuses from employment and from attendance at school or participation in sports activities. Chiropractic physicians can perform Department of Transportation (DOT) physicals as well.

The education and training required for chiropractors more than encompasses the needed clinical reasoning skills to provide the assessment and diagnosis of the potential conflicts for children participating in sports activities. While the primary aspect of a chiropractic practice is diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal conditions, a chiropractor's ability to screen and diagnose all conditions, even those that are obscure or outside the scope of practice for treatment, are thoroughly taught in his or her schooling and tested through both national as well as state credentialing. Chiropractors, as any portal of entry general practitioner, can and are required to make referrals to any specialist when needed.

I'm sure all of the above will be covered at length in this hearing, however, I would like my comments to reflect the aspects that are sometimes overlooked in matters of this nature, and what I feel I may be particularly qualified to speak on, and that is how this proposed clarification to the law would affect the practice and application in rural Alaska. This is quite important to me, as I have grown up in rural Alaska,

graduating Barrow High in 1993, where I was a high school athlete, and where I now own a Chiropractic and Physical Therapy clinic. In fact I have either a chiropractic or physical therapy clinic, or both, in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, Dillingham, Bethel, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Delta Junction, Valdez, and Sitka. You'll note the majority of those are towns of 5,000 people or less, and most are not on the road system. While I have experience and own clinics in more populated areas, these areas would see immediate benefit from this law being clarified, so that is what I am speaking on, and why it is so important to me, personally.

Heretofore, we have been solicited routinely to provide this service for local schools. In some cases we have been contracted by the schools and have provided the service to the entire student body of potential athletes. In other cases, coaches and students have reached out to us to provide these services, only to have a district official deny the student and their family the ability to get a valid physical exam if a Chiropractor had performed it.

Very simply, bush medicine is underserved in most cases, most all of us, who have lived or worked there can agree on that. We provide an alternative for a variety of services, that many patients want. In this case, concerning school sports physicals, that students and schools want, and have asked for. When asked and allowed to, we deliver a quality product from qualified doctors. The law does NOT prohibit this now, however, certain groups will not accept these physicals and site the vague language in the current legislation as the reason why. Senator Stolze's finely worded bill, addresses this in a common sense way, with the weight of the current law (which, according to one AG, states we can do this now), and a competent understanding of the training and schooling of chiropractic physicians. Like the rest of his bill, this language seeks simply to clarify this issue. It would lead to much immediate benefit being realized in rural school athletics, as well as a general acknowledgement of the competency of a well trained and educated, and if I may say so, well regulated, profession.

Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration on this issue. I hope my comments have provided some worthwhile insight, and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours in health,

Dr Walter Campbell
Arctic Chiropractic
Arctic Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine
wlcampbel1@aol.com



PALMER

College of Chiropractic

Office of the Chancellor

January 22, 2015

Ms. Debbie Ryan
Executive Director
Alaska Chiropractic Society
PO Box 111507
Anchorage, AK 99511-1507

RE: Pre-participation physicals

Dear Ms. Ryan,

I'm writing today to provide you with information about our program at Palmer College of Chiropractic with respect to sports pre-participation physicals.

Chiropractors in general, and Palmer graduates specifically, are highly skilled in providing comprehensive health examinations. The Palmer College of Chiropractic Doctor of Chiropractic program curriculum is a five-academic-year post-graduate program including 4,620 total contact hours of instruction. Of these contact hours, 570 are in diagnosis, 300 in radiology procedures and interpretation, and 945 in practical clinical experience in the Palmer Chiropractic Clinic system.

Palmer's curriculum produces professionals who are highly trained and experienced in assessment and diagnosis as well as clinical-reasoning skills -- and are eligible for licensure in all 50 states. Palmer's D.C. curriculum is accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education, the recognized accrediting body for the chiropractic profession. All three of our campuses are regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and are members of the North Central Association.

Palmer College of Chiropractic's main campus is located in Davenport, Iowa. All Iowa high school students participating in sports are required to obtain a pre-participation physical examination. All Iowa school districts in the Quad Cities approve pre-participation physical examinations provided by chiropractors. Our two outpatient clinics in the Quad Cities offer sports physicals throughout the school year with a special push at the beginning of each school year, and have provided 1,887 of these physicals during the last three years. This past calendar year our Quad-Cities clinics have provided more than 630 sports physicals. Many parents have commented that these pre-participation physical examinations are the most comprehensive their children have ever received.

Doctors of Chiropractic are included as eligible health care providers to provide physical examinations by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT). In fact, two faculty clinicians at the Palmer Chiropractic Clinics in the Quad Cities (Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, and Moline and Rock Island, Ill.) are listed on the National registry as certified to provide DOT "Fit for Duty" physical exams.

The DOT physical is a comprehensive evaluation covering all systems of the body, including a comprehensive health history and review along with a urinalysis screening. All of these examination aspects are taught and tested as part of Palmer's Doctor of Chiropractic curriculum, in both the academic and clinical portion of the education.

If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Marchiori, D.C., Ph.D.
Chancellor

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Davenport, IA 52803

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October 31, 2014

Re: athletic participation physical exams

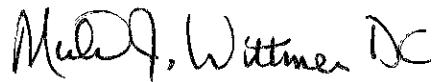
To Whom It May Concern:

As part of the curriculum, the College of Chiropractic students are taught physical examination. As such, in the state of Missouri, Doctors of Chiropractic provide pre-participation physical exams for athletics and back-to-school exams as well employment and general physicals.

Within the University clinic system, over 3000 sports physicals are given to grade school, junior and senior high school students each year.

If you have require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Wittmer, D.C.
Chief of Staff
Logan University
College of Chiropractic Health Centers



UNIVERSITY of WESTERN STATES

Integrating Health and Science

January 20, 2015

Ms. Sherri Ryan
Executive Administrator
Alaska Chiropractic Association

Re: Pre-participation physical exams for athletes

Dear Ms. Ryan,

The doctor of chiropractic program at the University of Western States fully prepares students and interns for portal of entry status in the health care field including physical diagnoses, orthopedic, neurological diagnosis and sports medicine specific diagnosis. In fact, in these areas our students will have experienced more hours than typical medical, nursing, physician assistant, or athletic training students, rendering them fully capable of performing complete, or athlete specific physical examination.

Should you have further questions regarding the training of chiropractic physicians at UWS, feel free to contact me anytime.

Yours truly,


Marion Willard Evans, DC, PhD, MCCHES
Provost and Executive Vice-president