

# Alaska State Medical Association

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April 8, 2015

The Honorable Mia Costello  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 510  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 69 Version \A

Dear Senator Costello:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA appreciates your past efforts and willingness to work with us and values our relationship with you.

ASMA would like to express our concern with Senate Bill 69 as it substantially expands the scope of practice of chiropractors licensed in Alaska as it relates to the safety of student athletes. Currently, under AS 08.20.100(b) licensed chiropractors are permitted, within the scope of chiropractic practice to sign certificates of physical examinations for children before they enter school. They may also, within the scope of their chiropractic practice, sign reports for attendance at school or participation in sports activities. However, SB 69 would remove current statutory language “within the scope of chiropractic practice” which arguably allows chiropractors to perform activities that are outside of the scope of chiropractic practice.

Given the increased focus and progress made by the student athletic association, sports community, healthcare community, and policymakers to raise the standards of safety for students participating in sports we are concerned serious injuries or conditions may not be detected should chiropractors be permitted to conduct physical examinations outside the scope of their training.

ASMA requests that Sb 69 be amended to retain the current statutory language that ensures chiropractors perform physicals “within the scope of chiropractic practice.”

Sincerely,

  
Michael Haugen  
Executive Director  
Alaska State Medical Association