



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,

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