

**CTChiro**  
**Connecticut Chiropractic Association**  
2257 Silas Deane Highway  
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

Statement of Candito Carroccia, D.C. DABCN  
before the Public Health Committee  
Senate Bill 185  
March 7, 2012

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Dr. Candito Carroccia, I am a licensed chiropractic physician here in the state of Connecticut where I have practiced for 25 years. My office is in Middletown and I reside in Plainville. I have held numerous leadership positions in my profession at both the state and national level and I am here today representing the Connecticut Chiropractic Association in support of Senate Bill 185, *An Act Concerning Notice to Parents of Student Athletes About Concussions and Head Injuries*. We support the proposal and request that a slight modification be made.

This legislation will require a written notice to a parent or guardian that a student athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion.

As you know, the overall law was enacted in 2010 and requires primary and secondary school coaches and athletic staff to be trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions, and to refer to a licensed healthcare professional any student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion. The student athlete is then examined and must be cleared in writing by a licensed health care professional before he or she can rejoin the team and engage on contact sports.

Unfortunately, the 2010 law did not include members of the chiropractic profession as drafted. The bill defines health care professionals as "*a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or an athletic trainer licensed pursuant to chapter 375a.*"

Our profession was not included on this list due to a controversy that related to an issue of informed consent. That issue has been resolved, and we are asking that you amend the law to add chiropractic physicians licensed under Chapter 372 to this list.

I have examined and treated many student athletes who exhibit symptoms of a concussion that results from a blow to the head. In fact many of the cases I receive are referrals from the medical community. We are fully capable of evaluating, intervening and treating patients in this regard and would ask that we be recognized by permitting chiropractic physicians to not only treat

student athletes for concussions but also make the appropriate written certification to determine if they are capable of rejoining the team. Our inability to certify a student athlete is often times a burden on our patients, when I must, according to the law, refer the patient to another office after I have treated them so they can return to the playing field.

In closing, we do support Senate Bill 185 but request that you include chiropractic physicians as outlined above.

I would be happy to provide you with more details or answer any questions that you may have about the profession of chiropractic or how it relates to the diagnosis and treatment of concussions. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.