

# CTChiro

## Connecticut Chiropractic Association

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Statement of Candito Carroccia, D.C. DABCN  
before the Children's Committee  
House Bill 6722  
February 17, 2015

Sen. Bartolomeo, Rep. Urban and members of the Children's Committee:

My name is Dr. Candito Carroccia; I am a licensed chiropractic physician here in the state of Connecticut where I have practiced for almost 30 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 the national level. After my Degree in Chiropractic I have also completed a Diplomate degree in Neurology and am currently completing a very demanding 2-year Fellowship program at the Carrick Brain center in Atlanta on Concussions and Mild traumatic Brain injuries. I am here today representing the Connecticut Chiropractic Association in regard to House Bill 6722, *An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletes*.

In addition to many of my other responsibilities I am currently serving as a member of the Task Force on Student Athlete Concussions. As you know, we are continuing to work through a draft report and will be sending our recommendation to you soon. I would say this has been a good group of people who are trying to grapple with multiple issues on this subject; however, we still have many complex issues that need to be addressed.

The original law was enacted in 2010 to require 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 such injury. The student athlete is then examined, treated and then must be cleared in writing by a

licensed health care professional before he or she can rejoin the team and engage in any sports.

Unfortunately, the 2010 law did not include members of the chiropractic profession under the definition of Health Care Professionals. 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 House Bill 6722 to add chiropractic physicians licensed under chapter 372 to this list. The appropriate amendment would be in section 10-149c(c) of the general statutes.

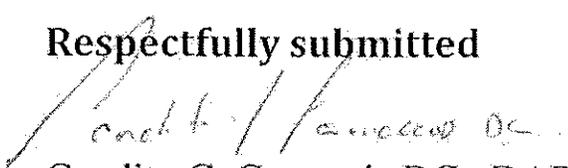
Many states already include such language, as does the United States Olympic Committee

I have examined and treated many patients including student athletes who have had concussions or MTBI 's. In fact many of the cases I receive are referrals from the medical community.

The Scope of Practice for Chiropractic in Connecticut certainly allows for us to Diagnose and treat concussion patients and what we are asking for is to be recognized to 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 physician, a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner or an athletic trainer after I have successfully treated them so they can return to the playing field. That requirement simply adds to the healthcare costs of the student's family.

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.

**Respectfully submitted**

  
Candito C. Carroccia DC, DABCN

