



PUTNAM CHIROPRACTIC CENTER, LLC

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February 12, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a 9 year US Navy Veteran Hospital Corpsman and also a 14 year practicing chiropractor in Putnam. I have been working in my present office since 1992. I am also a Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician (CCSP) and team chiropractic physician for the Green Valley Blackhawks semi-professional football team, members of the New England Football league (NEFL). I have been the team chiropractic physician for the Blackhawks for six seasons and a CCSP since 2011.

I am writing this letter because of my concern regarding concussion management of student athletes, specifically, to support HB 6722 - An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics. I recently treated a 13 year old female student for a non-contact grade 1 concussion. I attempted to return her to play but was informed that I am not recognized to do so.

Public Act 14-66 "An act concerning youth athletics and concussions, Section 2,2 states "The coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices, games or competitions, until such student athlete receives written clearance to participate in such supervised team activities involving physical exertion from a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions."

Public Act 10-62 "An act concerning student athletics and concussions" Section 2,3c states "For purposes of this section, "licensed health care professional" means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes or an athletic trainer licensed pursuant to chapter 375a of the general statutes."

Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 372 relates to the Chiropractic profession. We are granted licensure by the Department of Public Health as are the above health care professionals yet we are not included the aforementioned public acts regarding concussion management and return to play.

I am aware that it is the position of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association (CCA) that Chiropractic physicians must be recognized as a "licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions" for return to play determination for intramural and interscholastic athletes as well as for individuals participating in organized youth athletics. Therefore the line "chiropractic physician licensed pursuant to chapter 372" should be added after "a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370" in the statute (section 10-149c).

I feel very strongly that the chiropractic profession needs to be included in the treatment, management and disposition of concussion patients regardless of the patient population. Doctors of

Chiropractic are trained in the specifics of the neuro-musculoskeletal system. Many, such as myself go on to receive certifications of added qualification (CAQ's) which can include not only sports, but also Orthopedics, Neurology, Rehabilitation, and Nutrition to name a few. Doctors of Chiropractic are part of almost every major sport team, including the US Olympics and here in Connecticut, the Nutmeg State Games. To that extent, it is obvious that chiropractic physicians are qualified to manage concussions and must be included in the appropriate legislative acts.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. A. Barks, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frederick A. Barks, Jr, MS, DC, CCSP

CC: File