



Connecticut Chiropractic Association

2257 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Tel. (860) 257-0404 ~ Fax: (860) 257-0406
CTChiro.com

February 17, 2015

Re: HB 6722 – An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Committee on Children,

On behalf of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association I am writing to address House Bill 6722, An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics. Please be assured the Connecticut Chiropractic Association stands behind the efforts of the committee and legislature to bring improved health care delivery to Connecticut's youth.

Since 2010 Connecticut Public Act 1466 (Section 10-149b and c of the general statutes) requires intramural and interscholastic athletic programs to follow particular concussion policies to help reduce the incidence and effects of concussion on intramural and interscholastic athletes. The concussion policies are well received and provide direction for boards of education, health care providers, athletic directors, coaches, school health personnel, students and parents or guardians to follow. The policies in particular require a concussed athlete to receive return to play clearance from a "licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions." Licensed health care professionals recognized in the law include medical and osteopathic doctors, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants and certified athletic trainers. Chiropractic doctors are not presently included with the licensed health care professionals authorized to return an athlete to play. The intramural and interscholastic athletics concussion law will be expanded to include youth athletics with recommendations provided to the legislature by the Youth Athletics and Concussion Task Force. The Connecticut Chiropractic Association submits these concussion policies for intramural, interscholastic and organized youth athletics should include chiropractic doctors as health care professionals recognized to determine return to play status of the athlete.

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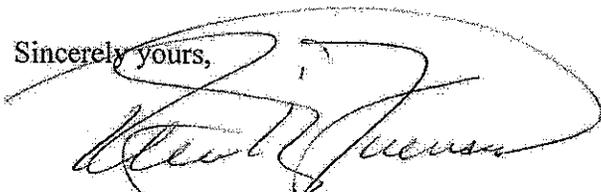
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Licensed in Connecticut since 1917, chiropractic doctors have independently and on sports medicine teams provided examination and management services, including return to play determination for concussion related injuries sustained in athletics, recreational activities, personal injuries and motor vehicle collisions. Chiropractic doctors are recognized in Connecticut Statute Sec. 10-209 to determine physical activity status in public schools. Chiropractic doctors have been involved with school and youth organized sports medicine for many years. Chiropractic doctors affiliated with the Connecticut Chiropractic Association have provided sports medicine care and served as medical directors for the Nutmeg State Games for 25 years. Connecticut has two chiropractic doctors who have served as medical directors for the Nutmeg State Games and subsequently served at the United States Olympic Training Center providing sports medicine care at the training center and with a particular sport for events throughout the country. Since 2009, the Director of Sports Medicine Clinics for the United States Olympic Committee is a chiropractic doctor. Chiropractic doctors are affiliated with many professional teams and leagues including the NFL, MLB, NHL, NBA and MLS.

The Connecticut Chiropractic Association and doctors throughout the state are ready, willing and able to work with all health care professions involved with the care of concussion related injuries to persons of all ages.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Duenas, DC, DABCN, FICC

1st Vice President

Chair, Government Relations Committee