

Senate Bill 2060-In Opposition
Industry, Business, and Labor Committee 67th
Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

January 11, 2021

Dear Chairman Klein, Vice Chairman Larsen, and Industry, Business, and Labor Committee members,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to section 12 of SB 2060, which would give expanded scope of practice to chiropractors to perform sports physicals on children. As a physician who specializes in infectious diseases, and in my role as the Director of the NDSU Center for Immunization Research and Education, my main area of concern is in relation to the adverse effects passage of this bill would have on adolescent immunization rates. Three very important vaccines are indicated (and frequently missed) in the early adolescent period; the meningitis vaccine (meningococcus), the HPV vaccine (human papillomavirus), and a Tdap booster (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis). We frequently rely on the sports physical as a very important episode of care to discuss and administer these vaccines, or capture students who missed their earlier episode of care for receiving these vaccines. In addition, several other vaccines are eligible for catch-up if they slipped through the cracks from even earlier time periods when they were indicated. In our Center's training of primary care providers, we specifically target the sports physical as a vital medical encounter to help adolescents receive the full benefits and protections from vaccination.

Administering vaccines is outside of the scope of practice of chiropractors, and therefore any chiropractic sports physical will mean an essential missed opportunity for adolescents to receive several indicated vaccines. At a minimum, this would mean counseling them to make another appointment with another provider to get these done, an unnecessary barrier that will surely impede many from getting vaccinated. At worst, counseling about vaccine-preventable diseases and the need for receiving indicated vaccines, may not occur at all as this is not something typically covered in a chiropractic scope of practice.

Please vote no on this bill that will compromise our ability to fully protect our children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,



Paul J Carson, MD, FACP
Dept. of Public Health
North Dakota State University

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NDSU Dept 2662 | PO Box 6050 | Fargo ND 58108-6050 | 701.231.6323 | Fax 701.231.5586 |

<http://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth>

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