

Testimony in regards to relating to the state board of chiropractic examiners and the practice of chiropractic.

My name is Paula Ayers and I have been a school nurse for Bismarck Public Schools for 8 years. I'm writing regarding the proposed addition to the duties of a chiropractor for the state of North Dakota, Section 12, 43-06-16, Duties of Chiropractor, Number 2 and 3, which states:

2. A licensed chiropractor practicing in this state may perform a preparticipation evaluation for participation in sports.

3. All certificates signed by a chiropractor licensed to practice in this state are of the same force and effect as those signed by other licensed physicians.

According to the said bill written under Section 1, 43-06-01, Definitions, Numbers 1-5, it is not written for a chiropractor to diagnose or prescribe treatment for chronic, childhood diseases such as asthma, anaphylaxis, heart conditions, seizures, etc. Under Definitions Number 2, it is written:

The treatment of patients by means of the adjustment or manipulation of the spinal column, the vertebral articulations, the appendicular skeleton not excluding the skull, and of any displaced tissue of any kind or nature.

Therefore, it is my strong opinion that a chiropractor is not qualified to evaluate a student for sport participation. They do not practice diagnosing or treating students with such medical conditions therefore, they are not qualified to approve sports physicals for students.

I feel strongly about this since receiving a written letter from a ND chiropractor diagnosing a student with a disease of the lungs. Chiropractors have no access to labs to diagnose such a disease, nor are they able to prescribe medication to treat it. This type of behavior is clearly not within a chiropractor's scope of practice yet they are pushing for it to be so. It is dishonorable to the actual medical physicians who have been educated and trained to treat human physiological diseases, prescribe natural and/or chemical treatment, and who have knowledge of each body system (skeletal, nervous, muscular, respiratory, endocrine, immune, cardiovascular/circulatory, urinary, integumentary, reproductive, and digestive), unlike that of a chiropractor.

Please vote against this bill. Passing it would put students with underlying health conditions at risk.

Thank you.