

CHENEY HEALTH CENTER/
GOULD CHIROPRACTIC

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Testimony of Steven J. Gould, D.C.
Support of HB 2016
House Health and Human Services Committee
January 28th, 2015

Dear Mr Chairman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me present testimony in support of HB 2016, making a change to AN ACT amending the school sports head injury prevention act; amending K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 72-135 and repealing the existing section. Concussion.

I am speaking on behalf of Kansas chiropractors, myself and my patients. I graduated from Cleveland Chiropractic College in 1989 and then completed a three year radiology residency in 1992. I have been in active practice in and around Wichita, Ks. since then. My current practice involves work as a radiologist/consultant, interpreting x-rays, MRI, CT, and musculoskeletal ultrasound studies for referring chiropractors. I provide post-graduate education seminars for chiropractors, covering topics in diagnostic imaging. I also have an active patient practice, in which I see patients in my clinic. I have written contracts with two schools districts, Cheney USD 286 and Garden Plain (Renwick) USD 267 to provide sports injury care. I have been providing care in this manner for over 10 years.

Chiropractors are providing services in this enlarging role of care, due to school budget changes, shortage of athletic trainers, and shortage of medical/osteopathic doctors to provide these services. I personally go to the schools 1 day per week to perform "sports checks". If a student athlete has an issue, they come in and see me at the school's training room. I will give recommendations for care of their particular injury. Sometimes it is recommendations on stretching or rest. Other times it is recommendation to come to my office or to go to their medical doctor or their doctor of chiropractic for an x-ray or other testing. I commonly refer them back to their primary medical provider, an orthopedic specialist, or their treating chiropractor, depending on the injury and depending on their insurance coverage.

All chiropractors have the appropriate basic training in chiropractic college through their studies in the performance of full physical examinations, including neurological examinations.

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We are allowed by state law to diagnose diseases of the human body, which would include altered function through a traumatic event.

The Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) includes chiropractors as one of the providers that can examine and certify over the road truck drivers for their DOT physical examinations. Chiropractors are included in the group of providers that can perform DOT physicals because of their education/training through chiropractic college and because of state law scope of practice.

Concussions are a serious issue and are not taken lightly by any of us. We agree with the intent of the law that was originally passed. However, the current definition of “health care provider” contained in the law is restrictive to only doctors of medicine or osteopathy. As other physician level providers of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts this is not a just or fair representation of the providers that may provide care for these injuries.

Let me assure you that chiropractors are indeed able to manage these cases and/or refer to a specialist, if needed. Besides sports injuries we care for people involved in other traumatic events in which brain injuries occur. Chiropractors are trained to deal with patients with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MTBI). MTBI is an injury to the brain, commonly without the loss of consciousness. MTBI can result from sudden shaking or whipping of the head and neck. This is the scenario seen in whiplash injuries in motor vehicle collisions or falls. So, sports injury concussion/brain injury is not a unique issue in the chiropractic practice. Additionally the management of MTBI does not require medications. In fact time and rest are the main “therapies” and some medications are not recommended for these patients. Doctors of chiropractic may then monitor/ manage these patients until their recovery is such that they can return to their activities.

In closing. I am in support of the correction noted in HB 2016, changing the definition of “health care provider” to “licensee of the healing arts as defined by K.S.A. 65-2802(d), and amendments thereto.”

The performance of this task is already in our scope of practice, training, and current clinical skills and practice.

Thank you allowing me this time.

Steven J. Gould, D.C., D.A.C.B.R.