



CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

Talking Points on SB 746

Pre-Participation Athletic Sports Physicals

**The California Chiropractic Association sponsors SB 746
authored by Senator Anthony Portantino.**

- Under existing law chiropractors legally perform pre-participation physicals for students and have been doing so for 30 years.
- Currently, Education Code §49458 lists a physician, surgeon or a physician assistant to perform these sports physicals.
- SB 746 would additionally doctors of chiropractic and other qualified providers (naturopathic doctors and nurse practitioners) to perform sports physicals.
- Because these qualified health care providers are not specified in Education Code §49458, some school districts are concerned about liability issues. Therefore, an inconsistency has occurred within California: some school districts allow doctors of chiropractic to perform sports physicals and but the vast majority do not.
- The chiropractic scope of practice fully permits sports physicals.
- Since 1922, doctors of chiropractic in California have been educated and licensed by the State of California to serve as portal of entry/primary care providers. As such, doctors of chiropractic routinely perform much higher level and extensive physical examinations.
- Chiropractors receive nearly 500 hours of education and training regarding heart and lung anatomy, pulmonary emergencies, heart murmurs, arrhythmias, EKG, auscultation, diagnosis of chest pain and pre-participation screening for sports, from California's nationally accredited colleges.
- Doctors of chiropractic meet the federal certification requirements of the Department of Transportation to perform commercial drivers' exams.
- Doctors of chiropractic are authorized to perform bus driver commercial drivers' license examinations in California.
- Many doctors of chiropractic serve as team doctors for school districts and yet are unable to perform the required sports physicals.