



CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

Talking Points on AB 1992 – Pre-Participation Athletic Sports Physicals

The California Chiropractic Association sponsors AB 1992
authored by Assembly Member Brian Jones.

- To participate in an interscholastic athletic program, students are required to obtain a physical examination before participation.
- Currently, Education Code §49458 authorizes a physician, surgeon or a physician assistant to perform these sports physicals, thereby excluding entire classes of qualified providers.
- AB 1992 would additionally authorize 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.
- 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.
- By authorizing additional providers, AB 1992 will allow parents to have health care choice for their children who participate in school athletics.