



Chiropractic Physicians and Student Concussion Protocols

Background Information

Under the School Code in Illinois, chiropractic physicians cannot remove a high school student athlete from activity for a possible concussion or certify the athlete to return to play, either after determining there is no concussion or after recovery from a concussion.

The Issue

The School Code contains provisions regarding who may remove a student athlete from a game, and who may authorize a student to return to play. Although chiropractic physicians are physicians licensed under the Medical Practice Act, they are unnecessarily excluded from both functions, because the School Code currently defines “physician” as a person licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches under the Medical Practice Act (a medical or osteopathic doctor). This definition excludes an entire category of physician, chiropractic physicians, who are well-educated and trained to evaluate and determine recovery from concussions. Additionally, under the Medical Practice of 1987, these activities are well within the scope of practice of a chiropractic physician. Doctors of chiropractic could expand student access to critical concussion evaluation services, both on and off the athletic field.

Legislative Recommended Action

This past session, the ICS filed HB 4925 (Breen) to allow chiropractic physicians the ability to remove an athlete from play, as well as certify an athlete to return to play.

We ask that you support legislation to improve student safety and broaden access to a critical health care component by allowing chiropractic physicians to remove an athlete from play, as well as certify an athlete to return to play.