

June 27, 2013

Governor John R. Kasich  
77 S. High St., 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Governor Kasich,

We are writing you today to request a line-item veto of an extremely controversial provision in House Bill 59 that puts Ohio's kids at risk. This language, which was added by the Ohio House of Representatives, would expand the scope of practice for chiropractors to allow them to clear youth athletes who have sustained a concussion to return to play without consulting or collaborating with a physician. As you know, last year the General Assembly passed, and you signed, House Bill 143, which created a statewide concussion management program for youth and high school sports leagues. HB 143 just went into effect two months ago.

Under HB 143, when a child shows signs of a concussion he or she is immediately removed from the field of play and must be evaluated and cleared by a healthcare professional before returning. Athletic trainers, physical therapists, chiropractors, and other non-physician practitioners must work with a physician during the return to play timeline; this requirement is in line with standards of care for a concussion and is ultimately in the best interest of the child. HB 143 was the result of nearly two years of work by legislators on both sides of the aisle, youth sports officials, healthcare providers, and other interested parties. The result was a widely supported concussion management standard that passed with near-unanimous support. To make such a significant change in the budget undermines this entire process and undercuts the hard work of legislators, stakeholders, and your administration.

Prior to the passage of HB 143 the only concussion management standard in place in Ohio was the Ohio High School Athletic Association's program, which is nearly identical to HB 143. OHSAA also did not allow chiropractors to make return to play decisions without consulting or collaborating with a physician. The OHSAA concussion program has been in place for three years and there have been no problems identified nor complaints reported. Ohio's concussion law is only two months old and there is no evidence to suggest that changes of this magnitude need to be made.

Concussion evaluation and management is outside of the chiropractic scope of practice, as defined both by the American Chiropractic Association and in section 4734.01 of the Revised Code. Further, a review of documents from the Council on Chiropractic Education, the accrediting body for chiropractic education programs, shows that concussion management and treatment of other traumatic brain injuries is not part of the curriculum for chiropractors. Chiropractors have never had authority in the Ohio Revised Code or Ohio Administrative code to evaluate concussions.

HB 143 allows chiropractors to be the primary point of care for a child with a concussion as long as they are working on consultation with, upon the referral of, in collaboration with, or under the supervision of a physician. There is nothing in HB 143 that prohibits chiropractors from being the 'team doctor' and being on the sidelines for games and athletic events. Your administration has worked diligently to move Ohio's healthcare infrastructure to a more collaborative, patient-centered system. When treating a concussion or other traumatic brain injury, it is important that patients be treated by providers who have relevant experience and expertise. Unfortunately, the language contained in HB 59 will discourage collaboration and contradicts the patient-centered approach that you have advanced over the last two years.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you veto sections 3313.539 and 3707.511 of HB 59 that expand the chiropractic scope of practice. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



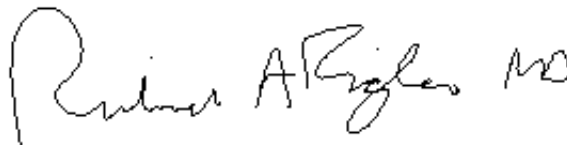
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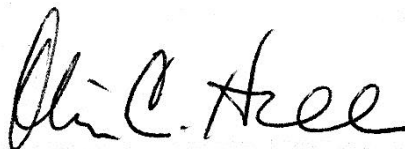
Tim Maglione, JD  
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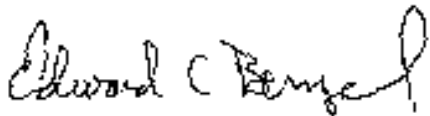
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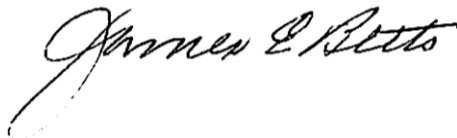
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