# AMERICAN CHIROPRACTIC BOARD OF SPORTS PHYSICIANS ™

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December 16, 2014

Re: Ohio State House Bill 487

To Whom It May Concern:

The management of concussion is an area of intense study. Regulatory agencies and sports governing bodies are striving to protect the athletes through legislative actions. It is important to recognize that no particular degree uniformly confers competency in the evaluation and management of concussed individuals.

The uniform inclusion or exclusion of healthcare-provider groups fails to take into account concussion specific training and practical experience that practitioners may have that confers competence with regard to concussion management. For example, many regulators allow specialists without sports specific training, such as gastroenterologists or dermatologists, to evaluate and manage concussed athletes while a different category of practitioner would not be permitted to make this decision despite their training and proven competence in the diagnosis and management of concussion. Additionally, managing the constellation of symptoms surrounding concussion is often difficult and may require a network of providers to provide complete management.

There are subspecialties in chiropractic that provide certifications of added qualification (CAQ). The American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians (ACBSP) is a certifying agency that certifies chiropractors that have demonstrated competency in sports medicine. There are two certifications from the ACBSP: the advanced sports medicine certification known as the Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians® (DACBSP®) and the preliminary chiropractic sports medicine certification known as the Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician® (CCSP®).

ACBSP certificants have received-evidence based instruction and have demonstrated competency in the diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management of concussion including on the field-of-play emergency management and determining return-to-play decisions. Written examinations are utilized to evaluate the candidates to determine competency based upon psychometric principles. The DACBSP certified chiropractors have additional head injury training and testing consisting of another written exam and a concussion specific practical examination. The DACBSP is the only sports medicine certification in the United States that evaluates its candidates with a concussion specific practical exam. Furthermore, the DACBSP and CCSP certified chiropractors may enroll in the ACBSP™ Concussion Registry (ACR), review its materials and undergo further written evaluation and examination bi-annually to demonstrate knowledge of the most current concussion guidelines and information.

The ACBSP certificants understand that some concussion cases may require multi-disciplinary integrated care. The certificants are trained to communicate and work effectively with other health care providers to assure the best outcome for the patient. Return to play can be controversial

if the providers are not current with the most recent guidelines. ACBSP certificants are further trained to direct the case management of a concussed athlete at either the time of the injury, pre-participation physical or prior to pre-season training.

The ACR course is also available to chiropractic doctors and other healthcare providers who are not ACBSP certificants. Upon successful completion of the ACR course evaluation the healthcare provider is listed in the online registry for two years from the date of course completion. The ACR course is revised every two years to include the most current research and best practices regarding the diagnosis, treatment, and management of concussion.

Chiropractors with CAQ in sports medicine have demonstrated competency in the diagnosis and management of concussions should be permitted to be part of the approved health care team. These doctors of chiropractic have the required clinical acumen to appropriately meet the standard of care to take an active role in the diagnosis and management of concussion including return to play decisions. It would be appropriate for your state to provide for doctors of chiropractic with a CAQ such as a DACBSP or CCSP certification to participate and serve the athletes and the public.

Should you need any additional information regarding the ACBSP or its certificates, please feel free to contact the ACBSP national office.

Sincerely,

Adam Mohr DC, DACBSP

Adam Mohr, DC, DACBSP®
President