

Dr. Pete Workman, DC  
102 E Elm St  
Lincoln, KS 67455  
785-488-8470

Testimony of Dr. Pete Workman DC  
Support of HB 2016  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
January 28, 2015

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee

My name is Pete Workman; I have been a Doctor of Chiropractic for a little over 25 years. In addition to my Chiropractic degree, I have also received my Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician (CCSP) and a Fellowship in Acupuncture. The CCSP requires 100 hours of additional training and education along with passing an examination administered by the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians. The CCSP training covered a wide variety of sports injuries and conditions including concussions. I have over 250 hours of Acupuncture training and certifications. I also have attended numerous seminars on sports injuries. One of the seminars had head trauma specialist, Dr. Robert Cantu MD. He is a Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at Boston University School of Medicine and the author of the Cantu Grading System for concussions. This was one of 3 major grading systems of concussions used in the United States. Dr. Cantu recommended that treatments for concussion injuries should include chiropractic. (Info from Concussion Management Short and Long Term Consequences of Mismanaging a Concussion, February 24-25 2012 at the Professional Football Chiropractic Society Seminar, Indianapolis, Indiana).

I was the team doctor for 2 of our local high school's football and volleyball teams for 16+ years. Throughout those years I saw, diagnosed, and treated numerous concussions and associated neck injuries. In these small schools, I donated my time and services because they could not afford a team doctor.

I would perform neurological, cognitive testing, symptom assessment, and observation of the injured athletes. I would use the SCORE card format for the athletes who had suspicious head or neck injuries.

I was able to diagnose the findings from these exams and administer proper treatment or referral. This was in accordance of the scope of practice of a Doctor of Chiropractic license in the State of

Kansas. As of approximately 4 years ago the ability to clear an athlete that I diagnosed with a concussion, to return safely to their respective sport was taken away.

This has created a hardship, financially and time wise, for the families in the small rural areas. They have to take more time and travel further to see doctors to release them from their concussion status. Rural areas do not have easy access to Impact Testing as do larger cities.

My own son, 7 years ago, suffered a severe concussion while playing football. I was there at the game, did my assessment, and diagnosed his head injury and took appropriate action. If I wasn't there at the game, he would have had to ride by ambulance 20 minutes to the nearest hospital and go an additional 45 minutes to a regional hospital for further treatment. In terms of trauma, what is done in the first 10 minutes is the most important for successful recovery of the injured person. If that happened now I would not have the ability to clear him for return to sports. For 21 years I could do this, but now I am unable to. This makes no sense to me, for someone trained and licensed to recognize and diagnose concussions, but cannot clear them to return to play.

Our scope of practice in Kansas allows us to diagnose and monitor concussions. I urge you to pass the amendment to Bill 2016, to allow Doctors of Chiropractic, to clear athletes who had a concussion to return safely to activities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Pete Workman DC