



TESTIMONY
House Health and Human Services Committee
HB 2578
February 3, 2016

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding HB 2578. KAOM is opposed to HB 2578.

A few years ago, the Kansas Legislature passed a very effective, cutting edge, well thought out bill to protect student athletes from brain injuries. At the time Kansas was one of the first states to pass such legislation. During the hearings it was decided, in the interest of student athletes, it was best if only a physician signed the "Return to Practice" form.

Since the Kansas head injury law was enacted, research has indicated the effects of sport head injuries are more profound than previously thought. Especially among children and adolescents. In some cases, the damage is not detected until the child has reached adulthood.

For licensure a chiropractor is required to have 2 years of undergraduate education, 4 years of graduate training, and 1000 hours in a clinical internship. By contrast, physicians must have 4 years of undergraduate education, 4 years of graduate training, 3-7 years of residency training, and between 12,000 and 16,000 hours of patient care hours. Obviously, physicians are by far more educated and trained to diagnose brain function resulting from injury than chiropractors. In terms of head injury, it does not make sense to trust our youth to anyone other than a physician. The current law protects our youth and does not need to be changed.

We encourage you to not support HB 2578.

Thank you.