

SB 1535 – Written Testimony

Date: February 3, 2016
To: Senator Roblan and members of the Senate Committee on Education
From : Kyle Cleys

Senator Roblan and members of the committee,

My name is Kyle Cleys and I live in Northeast Portland.

I oppose Senate Bill 1535 and I ask you to reject it. This bill would put chiropractors and naturopaths on a par with doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in evaluating and releasing young athletes who have sustained or are suspected of having sustained a concussion. Chiropractors and naturopaths are completely unqualified to perform these functions. They lack the necessary education, training and experience. Both of these professions reject science-based medicine and instead rely on discarded nineteenth century vitalism for their core beliefs. It would me more accurate to classify them as religion. Here is what others who have investigated them have to say:

Chiropractic

Consumers Union (publisher of *Consumer Reports*) came to the following conclusion about chiropractic:

Overall, Consumers Union believes that chiropractic is a significant hazard to many patients. Current licensing laws, in our opinion, lend an aura of legitimacy to unscientific practices and serve to protect the chiropractor rather than the public. In effect, those laws allow persons with limited qualifications to practice medicine under another name.

We believe the public health would be better served if state and federal governments used their licensing authority and their power of the purse to restrict the chiropractor's scope of practice more effectively.....**Above all, we would urge that chiropractors be prohibited from treating children; children do not have the freedom to reject unscientific therapy that their parents may mistakenly turn to for help in a crisis.** (my emphasis) ¹

Naturopathy

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services), after a thorough investigation, had this to say about naturopathy:

Naturopathic theory and practice are not based on the body of basic knowledge related to health, disease, and health care that has been widely accepted by the scientific community. Moreover, irrespective of its theory, the scope and quality of naturopathic education do not prepare the practitioner to make an adequate diagnosis and provide appropriate treatment.

¹ Editors of Consumer Reports Books. *Health Quackery: Consumers Union's Report on False Health Claims, Worthless Remedies, and Unproved Therapies*. Mount Vernon, NY: Consumers Union, 1980, p. 198.

Summary

Chiropractors and naturopaths are good at sounding reasonable and scientific when speaking to legislators, but a close examination of their beliefs and education and the things they actually do in practice should alarm anyone concerned about protecting the public. It is a very bad idea to expand their scope of practice. This only puts the public at greater risk from unscientific and often dangerous practices. Perhaps worst of all, it gives legitimacy to professions that rely on political action to achieve their goals rather than demonstrated safety and effectiveness.

I ask you to not waste anymore time on SB 1535 and to swiftly reject it.

Thank you,

Kyle Cleys
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