



March 30, 2017

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

Senate Health Care Committee

Oregon State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of Senate Bill 217 and proposed -6 amendment

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 217 and the proposed-6 amendment on behalf of the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians. Naturopathic physicians work in a variety of settings including PCPCHs as a primary care provider, academic institutions, and health systems. Naturopaths are trained in evaluation and management of multiple conditions and must complete 50 hours of continuing education annually, including 10 hours of pharmacology. Most importantly, and just like any other family physician, internal medicine doctor, or Nurse Practitioner, we are trained to appreciate when we can assess something on our own, when we need to have additional training/certification, and when we need to refer to a specialist.

The bill before you today addresses youth safety after experiencing a concussion and outlines the appropriate health care providers who can become qualified to assess and provide a medical release to youth after a concussion.

I want to emphasize that this is NOT an expansion of our scope of practice as licensed Naturopathic physicians. We are already trained to evaluate patients for concussion, and to know when patients are at risk and when they need to be referred to a specialist for care. Again, our role, training and scope as primary care providers is no different than a family physician or Nurse Practitioner who are already permitted to conduct these evaluations. What SB 217 *does* do is remove barriers to care for those patients who might see an ND as their primary care provider, or for the patients of NDs who specialize in rehab and sports medicine.

The proposed -6 amendment to Senate Bill 217 addresses youth athlete safety by ensuring that only a qualified health care professional certified by the appropriate regulatory board can provide a medical release for an athlete to return to training. This certification for providers is in addition to their current

licensure, and only allowed after the provider has demonstrated knowledge regarding the recognition of concussion symptoms and recovery. The -6 amendment also requires that the qualified health care professional maintain adequate liability insurance. We support both the additional certification training requirement and the mandatory liability insurance to protect both the providers and the patients due to the serious lifelong debilitation that can occur after repeated concussions. This bill with the -6 amendment will also increase access for young athletes to receive proper attention in the unfortunate event of a concussion by expanding the provider types which can be certified as qualified to assess concussions.

We appreciate the work that has gone into the crafting of this bill and the amendments to where it is today to ensure that Oregon youth are properly managed in the event of a concussion.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify today on behalf of OANP. We urge you to adopt the -6 amendment and support Senate Bill 217. I am available for any questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Love, ND