



Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. I am the Executive Director of OPSO, the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon, which is a group comprised of over 1,500 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Oregon who are all dedicated to providing top-level, comprehensive care to Oregon's patients.

For the safety of Oregon's children, **OPSO urges your no vote on SB 217**. This bill allows non-physician clinicians to release athletes to play after they have sustained a concussion.

The rigorous training requirements for physicians, including their medical school training, residency training, and continuing medical education, are in place to ensure that physicians have the knowledge, tools, and experience to provide complete and comprehensive diagnosis and treatment. The philosophy of osteopathic medicine is based on the understanding that the body is an integrated unit of complex systems, and health is not simply the absence of disease or pain.

Allowing non-physicians clinicians to practice medicine by simply addressing concussion symptoms without a comprehensive understanding of a person's overall health is a short-sighted and dangerous approach to treating Oregon's citizens. Legislating this a la carte approach to medicine is in fundamental opposition to the osteopathic philosophy of complete health care and ignores the medical necessity of the comprehensive, patient-centered and whole person approach to wellness.

An untreated concussion can have serious consequences, including death. The risk of returning concussed children, whose brains are still developing, to play too early is extreme. This type of decision should be made by a comprehensively trained physician who can use their complete knowledge and experience of medicine, taking into account the person as a whole, rather than just assessing symptoms.

While OPSO supports increased concussion training for the trained professionals who are treating and assessing concussed individuals, we do not agree that an online course can effectively teach a non-physician clinician everything he or she needs to know to safely treat a concussed child. Additionally, OPSO does not feel that \$1 million in liability insurance is enough to cover the serious consequences that can result from an untreated, or undertreated concussion.

Please protect Oregon's students, and oppose this bill.

Regards,

David Walls
Executive Director
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon