



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

Colleagues,

Senate Bill 1547A comes to you unanimously (27-0) from the Senate Health Care Committee. This bill expands the list of qualified health professionals who can provide medical release of a student athlete suspected of having a concussion.

State law prohibits a youth athlete who exhibits symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion from returning to athletic play until a qualified health care professional has examined the individual and provided a medical release form. Current Oregon law allows health care professionals who are licensed physicians (MDs, DOs), physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or psychologists to medically release student athlete with concussions.

The interim Senate Committee on Health Care convened a work group to develop recommendations on this topic following the 2017 session. The work group met five times to receive reports and presentations. The outcome is a bill based on a set of guidelines established by the work group.

Senate Bill 1547-A expands the list of qualified health professionals who can provide medical release of a student athlete suspected of having a concussion. This includes licensed chiropractic physicians, naturopathic physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and athletic trainers. Health professionals are eligible to provide medical release of a student athlete suspected of having a concussion if they have successfully completed an online concussion program established by OHSU. Program certificates issued by OHSU are valid for four years and can be renewed with additional training. I want to make clear, this is a free driven program to the professionals taking the training.

This is a child safety bill. New information from research is coming to light that concussions can cause more damage than first realized. We need qualified, well trained providers to do this. We need to more to keep our athletes safe. This is a good beginning.

Thank you,

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson