

MSNO Script for calling legislators about Postural Screening Bill that is currently in the Joint Committee on Public Health

Dear Representative/Senator (or Staff persons for your legislators):

I'm calling about the Postural Screening Bill, *an Act to update postural screening requirements in schools (Senate Bill 1233 and House Bill 1496)*. I am a school nurse living in _____, working in _____. In this bill, the MA School Nurse Organization is asking to decrease the state requirement of postural screening to once for students in grades 6, 7, 8, or 9 from the current requirement to screen all students in grades 5 through 9 (MGL Section 57 of Chapter 71).

Will you please share requests to Rep. John Mahoney and Sen Joanne Comerford, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Health, Rep. John Mahoney and Sen. Joanne Comerford, that they release the bill favorably out of this Committee?

Thank you for your support of this important bill that will increase student time on learning and reduce a mandate to schools that is not evidence-based.

Here are the specific reasons I'm supporting this bill being passed:

- Routine postural screening is not recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,*
- Critical time on learning is lost over 5 grades,
- Many parents/guardians opt-out each year,
- Most Primary Care Pediatric Providers oversee postural screening as part of the physical exam,
- School Nurse time is better used for other screenings, such as the universal SBIRT substance use screening in two grades as required by the 2016 STEP Act, and
- 93% of MSNO members polled in December 2018 (42% of all members, 365 school nurses) support filing this postural screening legislation.

There are only 7 states, including Massachusetts, that require Postural Screening in schools **by law**.

References

Jakubowski T, Alexy A (2014). *Does School Scoliosis Screening Make the Grade?* NASN School Nurse, 29(5), 258-265.

Jinn J (2018). *Screening for Scoliosis in Adolescents*. Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), 319(2), 202.

Magee J, Kenney D, Mullin E (2012). *Efficacy of and Advocacy for Postural Screening in Public Schools*. Orthopaedic Nursing, 31 (4), 232-235.

*<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/RecommendationStatementFinal/adolescent-idiopathic-scoliosis-screening1>