

Cindy Friedman, Chair  
24 Beacon St. Room 208  
Boston, MA 02133

Daniel Cullinane, Vice Chair  
24 Beacon St. Room 236  
Boston, MA 02133

June 12, 2020

Dear Chairs Friedman and Cullinan,

We are asking you and the Members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance to favorably review an Act update postural screening requirements in schools (SB1233). In this bill, the MA School Nurse Organization is asking to decrease the frequency of state mandated postural screening to once annually for students in grades 6, 7, 8, or 9 from the current requirement to screen all students in grades 5 through 9 (MGL Sect 57 Ch 71).

We support this legislation to reduce postural screening frequency in schools because:

- 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.
- **School Nurses are and will be the primary health care provider in schools responsible for managing infectious diseases, including COVID-19, and will need more time for surveillance and triage.**

Thank you for moving this bill out of your Committee.

*Jenny M. Gormley*

*Carilyn Rains*

*Doreen Crowe*

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#### References

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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>