

April 26, 2021

The Massachusetts School Nurse Organization has filed 2 Bills related to Postural Screening in the MA House and Senate with the same title and language.

**HB2335 An act to update postural screening in schools**

filed by Representative Kay Khan

**SB1401 An act to update postural screening in schools**

filed by Senator Julian Cyr

These are the same bills that MSNO filed in the last legislative cycle starting 2019 when 71 MA legislators signed up to co-sponsor them. Here is a summary of the postural screening bills and reasons for filing. **We are 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).**

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.
- There are only 7 states, including Massachusetts, that require Postural Screening **by law** and in 1 grade only.

For more information, please contact a member of the MSNO Advocacy Team:

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#### References

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