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**
