



School Nurses' Script to Call Legislators to Co-Sponsor MSNO's Postural Screening Bill.

March 26, 2021

1. Find your legislator here: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
2. Call and introduce yourself: "Hi, I'm _____ name _____, school nurse from _____ town or city _____, resident of _____ town you live in, and I wish to speak with the Representative/Senator about co-sponsoring a bill." Your legislator may not be available, and you should ask for the legislative aide, and if this person is not available, give the information to the person answering the phone.
3. Say that you are calling to request that the Senator or Representative co-sponsor the Postural Screening bills, ***An Act to update postural screening requirements in schools***, filed by Senator Julian Cyr in the Senate (SB#1401) and Representative Kay Khan in the House (HD #2355) on behalf of the MA School Nurse Organization (MSNO).
[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
4. Share that these bills were filed by the same legislators in 2019 with a total of 71 legislators (senators and representatives) signing on to co-sponsor the bills in the House and Senate.
5. Explain that MSNO and school nurses 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).
6. As time allows, you can explain to the legislative aide, why you are joining MA school nurses in asking for this change in the law:
 - Routine postural screening is not recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,
 - Critical time on learning is lost with screening students in 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.
 - only 7 states, including Massachusetts, that require Postural Screening by law for 1 grade only.
7. You may offer to email the legislative aide and Senator or Representative your request for them to co-sponsor the bills.
8. Thank the aide and Senator or Representative for considering co-sponsorship. Share your contact info if they have follow-up questions.
9. After your call, please email Jenny Gormley, MSNO Immediate Past President, pastpresident@msno.org, to share who you called and what their response was to your request. We are keeping track so that we can better advocate for reducing the legal requirement for postural screening for students in 5 grades to students in 1 grade annually.