

SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL to use for Contacting Legislators to ask for Co-Sponsoring Postural Screening Bills

Your name

Address

Phone #

Email

Date

Dear Representative/Senator [Name],

[Add a personal statement, e.g. I am a school nurse and live/work in. . . and am reaching out to you with an important ask that will help MA youth in schools]

I'm writing to ask you to co-sponsor these two bills that would update MA postural screening law to decrease the frequency of postural screening in public schools:

- [House bill #2335](#), **An Act to update postural screening requirements in schools**
- [Senate bill #1401](#), **An Act to update postural screening requirements in schools**

The House and Senate version language is the same. 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. On May 3, 2021, MSNO provided public testimony in favor of the bill at the Joint Committee of Public Health hearing.

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 or 2 grades only.

Thank you, in advance, for co-sponsoring the postural screening bills.

[your name with credentials]