



Senator Cindy Friedman
Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
24 Beacon St. Room 208
Boston, MA 02133

Representative John Lawn, Jr
Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
24 Beacon St. Room 445
Boston, MA 02133

December 8, 2021

Dear Chairs Friedman and Chandler,

We are asking you and the Members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance to favorably review an Act to update postural screening requirements in schools (S.1401 filed by Sen Cyr and H.2335 filed by Rep Khan). 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 dedicated to communicable disease surveillance and tracking (e. g. COVID-19, influenza, etc.) and other mandated screenings, such as vision, hearing and Screening Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT) for substance use, and
- 93% of MSNO members polled in December 2018 support passage of this postural screening legislation.

Thank you for moving this bill out of your Committee.

Doreen Crowe, MEd, BSN, RN
Doreen Crowe, MSNO President
president@msno.org

Jenny M. Gormley, DNP, MSN, RN, NCSN
Jenny Gormley, MSNO Past President
pastpresident@msno.org

Cathryn Hampson, MSN, RN, NCSN
President-elect
presidenclect@msno.org

Carilyn Rains, MEd, BSN, RN
NASN Director for MA
nasndirector@msno.org

References

Jakubowski T, Alexy A (2014). *Does School Scoliosis Screening Make the Grade?* NASN School Nurse, 29(5), 258-265.
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>