



**A VOICE FOR CHOICE  
ADVOCACY**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB746 (Portantino)**

**Pupil health: physical examinations**

April 17, 2017

Dear CA Senate Education Committee Members,

A Voice for Choice Advocacy asks for your **AYE VOTE on SB746**.

A Voice for Choice Advocacy is in support of SB746 and we ask for your support in passing SB746, which would specifically authorize Nurse Practitioners (NP), Naturopathic Doctors (ND), and Doctors of Chiropractic (DC) to perform Pre-performance Physical Examinations (PPE) for students participating in interscholastic sports. Current law does not specifically discriminate against the above-mentioned providers performing PPEs and these practitioners have been legally performing PPEs for 30 years.

The need for this bill arises due to the omission of NPs, NDs and DCs from the list of providers included in the California education code. This omission creates confusion and leaves school districts uncertain as to their potential vulnerability when accepting exams from omitted practitioners.

The scope of practice in California for NPs, NDs, and DCs includes the specific protocols necessary to perform a PPE. State Boards closely monitor the scope of practice, training, and continuing education for all licensed practitioners. Failure to allow licensed practitioners to practice within their scope is discriminatory.

Furthermore, interscholastic athletes are free to choose these practitioners as their primary care physicians. Preserving a student's right to seek care and evaluation from their primary care physician who is most familiar with the student's health history is of the utmost importance. Financially, establishing care with a new practitioner for the sole purpose of a PPE may result in delayed examinations and a greater financial burden to the student.

Support for this bill clarifies the legality of NPs, NDs, and DCs to perform PPEs, preserves the student's right to seek treatment from their chosen medical provider and eliminates the potential for discrimination towards providers who are licensed to provide care within their scope of practice. For this reason, we urge you to support SB746.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Christina Hildebrand*

Christina Hildebrand  
President,  
A Voice for Choice Advocacy, Inc.  
[christina@avoiceforchoiceadvocacy.org](mailto:christina@avoiceforchoiceadvocacy.org)

Giving issues a voice, A Voice for Choice Advocacy advocates for people's rights to be fully informed about the composition, quality, and short- and long-term health effects of all products that go into people's bodies, such as food, water, air, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.