



JOHN SPIROS

State Representative • 86th Assembly District

Assembly Bill 117

January 18, 2022

Testimony from Rep. Spiros

Hello, and thank you Chairman Swearingen and members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs for allowing me the opportunity to testify today regarding Assembly Bill 117, relating to Continuing Education (CE) program sponsors for chiropractors.

I am happy to say that after several years of working on legislation associated with this issue, we have finally created a positive solution that both chiropractic state associations have agreed to.

Representative Moses will discuss the details of the substitute amendment, which is the collaborative result of discussions with Senator Petrowski, Representative Moses, Speaker Vos's office, leadership of both the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association, and my office. This substitute amendment will create a workable solution to the current issues involving chiropractic CE in Wisconsin.

This legislation simply creates a level playing field so that reputable, established chiropractic organizations in the state are treated equally and chiropractors have a greater choice for their CE training.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share testimony in support of this bill.



CLINT P. MOSES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 29TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Office: (608) 266-7683
Toll Free: (888) 529-0029
Rep.Moses@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

To: Assembly Committee on State Affairs

From: State Representative Clint P. Moses

Date: January 18, 2022

Subject: Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 117

Thank you Chairman Swearingen and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 117. I appreciate your time and consideration of this legislation.

The issue of chiropractic continuing education sponsorship and approval has divided the profession I love for too long and current policy weakens chiropractic care in Wisconsin and hinders the delivery of a quality product to patients.

I am here today to testify on Assembly Bill 117 that will improve continuing education opportunities for chiropractors and their offices. This bill and substitute amendment improves accessibility, affordability and quality of educational experiences available to chiropractic providers in the state of Wisconsin.

The substitute amendment retains and reorganizes the definition of "program sponsor" found in current law. The amendment adds to the definition of "program sponsor" with:

A member-based state or national chiropractic organization that satisfies all of the following requirements:

- The organization is a tax-exempt organization under federal law and has been in existence as a tax exempt organization for at least five years.
- The purpose of the organization is not solely providing continuing education programs.
- The organization engages in measurable advocacy efforts to promote the chiropractic profession.

This amendment will assist the chiropractic profession in Wisconsin with a more competitive marketplace for educational programs, while at the same time enhancing the ethical responsibilities for the sponsors of the educational programs.

I want to commend the efforts of both organizations, the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association and the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin, for the cooperation to negotiate an amendment they both fully support.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share testimony in support of Assembly Bill 117 and will now take any questions you might have.



Chiropractic Society
OF WISCONSIN

To: Wisconsin State Legislature

From: Wisconsin Chiropractic Association
Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin

RE: Substitute Amendment to AB 117 relating to sponsorship of chiropractic continuing education programs.

Wisconsin's two state chiropractic organizations, The Wisconsin Chiropractic Association and the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin, are proud to have worked with legislators to find common ground on a substitute amendment supported by both organizations to Assembly Bill 117. This important legislation related to our profession and members deals with the regulation of continuing education and certification requirements for the chiropractic profession.

The combined efforts of Senator Petrowski, Representative Moses, Representative Spiros and leadership from our associations resulted in a proposal that will create a more competitive marketplace for educational programs for the chiropractic profession in Wisconsin. We also achieved our goals of enhancing the ethical responsibilities of organizations that sponsor chiropractic continuing educational programs in Wisconsin.

As amended, Assembly Bill 117 is a positive change for our profession and for the thousands of patients our members serve throughout Wisconsin.

We ask you to join The Wisconsin Chiropractic Association and the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin in support of this substitute amendment and AB 117.

Sincerely

John Murray
Executive Director WCA

Dr. Steven Conway
Executive Director CSW

1/17/2022

To: Members of the Assembly State Affairs committee

From: Steven Conway, Executive Director of the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin

Re: Assembly Bill 117 and substitute amendment to AB 117

Thank you Representative Swearingen and members of the Assembly State Affairs committee for allowing our state association, the chiropractic society of Wisconsin (CSW) the opportunity to testify in support of AB 117 including the new substitute amendment introduced by Representative Moses. We also want to thank Senator Petrowski, Representative Spiros and Representative Moses for their authorship and support of this legislation.

My name is Dr. Steven Conway and I am the Executive Director of the CSW.

Wisconsin has a very unique statute associated with sponsors of chiropractic continuing education (CE). The statute specifically lists organizations that can provide CE programs. All others are excluded. This language is very anti-competitive and has unfairly prohibited the CSW from sponsoring CE programs to our members for almost 10 years.

I am happy to testify that through the efforts of Senator Petrowski, Rep. Moses, and Rep. Spiros we have been able to find a workable solution with the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association and the Medical College of Wisconsin that creates a "win" for not only our associations, but other chiropractic associations that may be interested in sponsoring CE in Wisconsin.

The substitute amendment introduced by Representative Moses allows my association, the CSW, the ability to provide continuing educational programs for our members. While we are not specifically listed by name, the substitute amendment creates a new provision that allows multiple member-based chiropractic associations like the CSW to become sponsors of CE in Wisconsin. This new provision greatly increases free market competition resulting in greater choices for chiropractors, chiropractic technicians and chiropractic radiological technicians in Wisconsin.

We were also able to include important language associated with Chir rule 12 related to sponsors of nutritional certification programs. The substitute amendment contains provisions that modify chir 12 correcting a decade long anti-competitive action created by former members of the chiropractic board of examiners.

The substitute amendment also includes language that increases the integrity of CE programs in Wisconsin by eliminating abuses in the system associated with program monitoring by out of state organizations.

In closing: The CSW is a strong viable and growing chiropractic organization. We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary this year. The current statutes have prevented our association from sponsoring any CE program for 10 years. This legislation simply eliminates anti-competitive language and levels the playing field allowing our association and others the ability to serve our members with CE programs.

We ask that you support and vote in favor of AB 117