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Testimony on Senate Bill 690

June 3, 2014

- Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the Committee, for allowing me to testify before you today regarding access to physical therapy in our state.
- My name is Dr. Dan Spencer and I am Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Association of Chiropractors.
- I am here today regarding amendments to this legislation. These amendments would add doctors of chiropractic to the list of health care practitioners from which physical therapists (PTs) can accept a prescription.
- Currently, the PT scope limits them to treating patients only with a prescription from an MD, DO, podiatrist, or dentist. Doctors of chiropractic are the only licensed physician group from which PTs are unable to accept a prescription.
- The proposed amendments would allow all physician groups, legally able to make diagnoses under the Michigan Public Health Code, to prescribe to PTs. This ensures that patients receive the care they require, from those who can best provide it.
- Over 40 other states, including all of our Great Lakes neighbors, currently allow PTs to accept referrals from doctors of chiropractic.
- I would also like to note that this amendment does not alter or change the current chiropractic scope of practice in any way.
- Under the current scope, part of the practice of chiropractic is defined as, “The diagnosis of human conditions and disorders of the human

musculoskeletal and nervous systems as they relate to subluxations, misalignments, and joint dysfunctions. **These diagnoses shall be for the purpose of detecting and correcting those conditions and disorders or offering advice to seek treatment from other health professionals in order to restore and maintain health.**

- **In other words, chiropractors already must refer to other health professionals, such as cardiologists and orthopedic surgeons, when appropriate. It is the PT scope of practice that restricts them from accepting a referral or prescription from a doctor of chiropractic.**
- **Allowing PTs to accept prescriptions from chiropractors will result in efficiencies for patients and lower health care costs in our state.**
- **Today, if one of my patients needs to also see a PT, I would have to refer them to an MD, DO, podiatrist, or dentist and have them send the patient to the PT. That adds additional costs in the form of an unnecessary exam. In addition, the treating health care providers should be in communication with each other. Placing a third provider in between that communication creates a barrier and is detrimental to the patient.**
- **You may hear protests from other physician groups that these amendments will give doctors of chiropractic prescriptive rights for the first time. Those objections are inaccurate. A prescription, as defined in the Michigan administrative rules for Part 178 of the Public Health Code, "...is a written or electronic order..." Under our current scope, chiropractors already issue written or electronic orders for many products or services. This is not a new right for doctors of chiropractic.**
- **Again, thank you for allowing me to speak to you this morning, and I hope you will support these amendments to Senate Bill 690.**