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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senator Petrowski Testimony
Senate Bill 731
Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 731.

In order to receive a license in Wisconsin to practice Chiropractic, prospective licensees must complete and pass all four examinations conducted by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. This legislation returns the required passing score on the exam Parts III and IV to 375.

Current law requires a score of 438 on part III and 475 on IV of the examination in order for a prospective candidate to be eligible for certification. Up until 2013 a passing score of 375 was required for those same parts of the exam. These heightened requirements are out of line with the rest of the country and have resulted in making it extremely difficult for even the most competent of aspiring chiropractors to score high enough to be able to practice in Wisconsin. We are, in fact, the only state in the United States that requires higher scores for both Part III and IV.

By all accounts, these heightened standards appear to have been chosen arbitrarily and do not correlate to increased competency or greater consumer protection. They only result in the fencing out of new chiropractors from practicing in Wisconsin. Rather than continue to live in limbo or spend thousands of extra dollars retaking the exam, many young chiropractors have chosen to just give up and move elsewhere. These baseless score requirements are really ruining lives and there will be more testimony today detailing the hardships people are experiencing because of them.

Senate Amendment 1 clarifies that the reduced score of 375 is sufficient regardless of when the person took the exam.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in favor of this bill. I would be happy to take any questions at this time.

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TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations

FR: Representative Dale Kooyenga

RE: support for SB 731 changes to the chiropractic test scores

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 731. This bill relates to the score required for successful completion of Parts III and IV of the Wisconsin chiropractic examination.

Simply put, the bill changes the required score for successful completion of Part III of the examination from 438 to 375 and Part IV of the examination from 475 to 375. The current law requirement of 438 and 475 are completely arbitrary and out of line with the rest of the country. The national standard score is 375 and it utilized by the vast majority of states – only two states, North Carolina and Maryland, do not utilize the national standard number.

Utilizing these arbitrary higher numbers for our examination does not correlate to increased competency or provide a higher level of consumer protection. What it does do is create a fence around Wisconsin with a sign that says we are not open for business. This legislation will eliminate that fence and help attract and keep both young and old chiropractors in our state.

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 731 ensures that exams that were taken before this bill becomes law are applicable if they are at or above a score of 375.

Thank you for hearing this bill and I respectfully ask for your support.