

HB 2516 - H AMD 1065

By Representative Green

ADOPTED 02/13/2008

1 On page 1, beginning on line 5, strike all of section 1 and insert
2 the following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that schools and
4 their health personnel are important elements in ensuring the health of
5 Washington's youth. Allowing school personnel to focus their efforts
6 on providing the best care is essential for continued success.

7 Schools are currently required to screen students for scoliosis,
8 which affects approximately two to three percent of the general
9 population. Detection and identification of cases that require medical
10 attention is vital. However, the legislature finds that schools are
11 not the ideal setting for these screenings, nor are they the best use
12 of school health personnel resources. The lack of a simple and rapid
13 test that provides reliable diagnoses results in referrals to
14 unnecessary care, which is limited in effectiveness for mild to
15 moderate cases. This may lead to financial and emotional hardship for
16 the student and family. Scoliosis screening is more appropriately
17 provided as part of preventive care by a student's primary care
18 provider.

19 Removing scoliosis screening as a responsibility of school
20 districts will result in more reliable diagnoses, and allow school
21 health personnel to focus their efforts on improving the health of
22 their unique student populations."

EFFECT: Removes legislative findings related to shortages of
school nurses and the inefficiency of conducting scoliosis screenings
at schools and replaces it with legislative findings that scoliosis

screenings are more appropriately conducted by primary care providers rather than school health personnel.

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