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OCT 30 2018



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Washington State Senate

Senator Ann Rivers
18th Legislative District

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
Solicitor General's Division

October 25, 2018

Washington State
Office of the Attorney General
Robert W. Ferguson, Attorney General
1125 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

RE: UWS Chiropractic Education Official Opinion Request

Dear Attorney General Ferguson,

The University of Western States (UWS) is based in Portland, Oregon and is a world-class, integrated health sciences educational institution that practices a natural approach to health and wellness. UWS offers a Doctor of Chiropractic degree and is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and by the Council on Chiropractic Education.

UWS is looking to expand into Washington but there are potential challenges with offering new educational programs in Washington. I have been involved in legislation that would expand educational opportunities in the healthcare profession and am requesting an official opinion.

Chiropractic scope of practice laws differ from state to state, and as is often the case, chiropractic skills taught in the program may go beyond a state's chiropractic scope of practice laws. The student base at UWS comes from all over the country, and from other countries, where scope of practice laws differ. In order to offer a valuable chiropractic program it is necessary to teach skills that might exceed the scope of practice laws of the state where the school resides. Therefore, my first questions are: May diagnostic and therapeutic skills that go beyond the chiropractic scope of practice in Washington still be taught in the classroom in Washington? And along these same lines, may a student practice those clinical skills, which go beyond the chiropractic scope of practice in Washington, in "practical laboratory" sessions where students practice these skills on each other, not the general public, under the supervision of faculty.

The third question deals with the issue of licensure of faculty: Given that this is an accredited educational program, are the faculty who teach in classroom and practical laboratory settings, but who do not deliver clinical services to the public, required to be licensed as chiropractors in Washington?

I greatly appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Rivers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Senator Ann Rivers