



March 9, 2010

Senator Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair
Representative Andrew M. Fleischmann, Co-Chair
Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Dear Senator Gaffey and Representative Fleischmann:

The National Athletic Trainers' Association strongly supports efforts to require appropriate medical attention to student athletes with suspected or diagnosed brain injury (concussion).

The NATA is gratified that many state legislatures are recognizing what has been known in the sports medicine community for years: too many athletes are at risk for moderate to severe brain injury because concussion is misunderstood and under-diagnosed. It is not simply "having your bell rung."

To alleviate this problem, the NATA has created the Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America with over 30 member organizations, and sponsored a Summit on January 12 at which national experts spoke on this issue. We hope that legislators will protect children by assuring that they have access to qualified professionals and undergo a preparticipation physical. We would like to see more research into youth sports injuries and their effects; increased awareness among coaches, athletes, and parents of the dangers; and an end to the culture of "playing through pain" without assessment.

Please protect our youth athletes by enacting legislation in this session.

Sincerely,

Marje Albohm, President