



# THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

## CIAC Mission Statement

*The CIAC believes that interscholastic athletic programs and competition are an integral part of a student's academic, social, emotional and physical development. The CIAC promotes the academic mission of schools and honorable competition. As such, the CIAC serves as the regulatory agency for high school interscholastic athletic programs and exists to assure quality experiences that reflect high ethical standards and expectations for fairness, equity and sportsmanship for all student athletes and coaches. The CIAC provides leadership and support for member schools through the voluntary services of dedicated school administrators, athletic directors, coaches and consultants.*

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## Testimony

### Senate Bill No. 456 - An Act Concerning Student Athletes and Concussions

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), the governing body for high school athletics in the state, represents one hundred eighty four (184) high schools in Connecticut. Within those member schools over one hundred seven thousand (107,000) student-athletes compete in interscholastic athletics governed by the conference. The CIAC protects the welfare of the student athlete through the enforcement of eligibility requirements, tournament regulations, standards of sportsmanship, fairness and by providing equitable competition. Further, the CIAC has established policies and administrative regulations to protect the health, safety and welfare of all athletes.

It is estimated there are over 100,000 sports-related head injuries in high school athletics yearly and as many as 3.5 million sports related concussion in athletics at all levels of sport across America. There is consensus among those who work with high school athletes that a need exists to have clear guidelines in managing concussions for all schools and coaches to follow. CIAC enthusiastically supports **Senate Bill 456** as it is designed to protect the health and safety of the athlete through clearly defined return-to-play guidelines and an educational component that requires all coaches to be trained in concussion management and return to play protocols. CIAC believes by educating all permitted and newly permitted high school coaches and enforcing the return to play protocol as required by **Senate Bill 456** we will greatly reduce the real risk of catastrophic results when an athlete is returned to action too soon.

By passing Senate Bill 456 you will be providing all schools and coaches clear mandates and guidelines that will help protect the health, safety and welfare of all student-athletes in Connecticut.

*Affiliated with  
the National  
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