

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Taryn Rogers and I am a speech-language pathologist at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and a member of the Connecticut Speech Language and Hearing Association (CSHA). I am writing regarding raised bill number 456, An Act Concerning Student Athletes and Concussions.

As a speech-language pathologist who evaluates and treats student athletes that have sustained concussions while playing sports, I have first-hand knowledge of the long-term consequences of this injury. Repeated concussions impact these athletes physically, cognitively and psychologically. These students can require months and even years of cognitive rehabilitation to return to previous levels of functioning. Even with rehabilitation, some students are never the same again. Unfortunately, many student athletes report that they felt pressure from their coaches, teammates, and even parents to return to playing their sport before their symptoms had fully resolved.

I am happy to write in support of the legislation proposed which requires student athletes to obtain written medical clearance from a medical professional before being allowed to return to vigorous practice or play. In addition, I support further training and education for coaches. I applaud and support you in your efforts to prevent head injuries in our student athletes.

Sincerely,

Taryn Rogers, M.A., CCC/SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
CT Children's Medical Center