

RSB 456 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS

General Assembly

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing for Raised Bill # 456 due to prior commitments and am therefore sending this letter instead.

I have seen over 1500 adolescent concussions in the past 6 years and have found that many of these student-athletes go on to develop symptoms that last over a month. Many of these patients develop what can be called acquired Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and have difficulty with their memory. In a recent paper that I just published in the March 2010 issue of Connecticut Medicine, which I am attaching to this letter, I have found that multiple blows to the head are the most important cause of this to occur. Clearly, not allowing athletes to return to their same game and not returning to contact sports until they are fully recovered will help to prevent them from developing prolonged symptoms. Having coaches more aware of the long term consequences of concussions that are not treated properly will hopefully prevent these consequences from occurring. I ask that this bill be approved as expeditiously as possible.

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