

# Waterford High School

## Athletic Department

20 Rope Ferry Road  
Waterford, CT 06385-2894

Donald Macrino  
Principal

David Sousa  
Athletic Director

February 15, 2013

### Testimony Regarding

### House Bill 6383 – AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

My name is David Sousa and I am the Athletic Director for Waterford High School in Waterford, Connecticut. I have been an Athletic Director for more than 14 years. I feel compelled to write this testimony in support of House Bill 6383, as it is a House Bill that should be implemented to enhance the position of the Athletic Director. The role and responsibilities of our position has changed tremendously and continues to change. The Athletic Director is required to insure that every coach who participates in the school's athletic program possess and maintain a coaching permit and ongoing CEUs, which are required by law. Athletic Directors attend specific professional development training, so they may provide those CEUs to their own coaches at no cost. In 2010, legislation passed that requires the ongoing education of requiring all coaches specific to concussions and the recognition of such injuries. In 2005, legislation was enacted requiring all coaches be evaluated. The primary goal of Athletic Director is to provide each student with the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity that will foster physical skills, personal growth, a sense of worth and confidence, and a knowledge and understanding of the pleasures of sport and principles of fair play. Other issues such as hazing and bullying and the use of electronic and social media have also increased the responsibilities and duties of Athletic Director position. In addition, the Athletic Director hires coaches, schedules games, transportation and officials, as well as dealing with a number of complaints, on a daily basis, from parents who disagree with the decisions of coaches. The requirements placed upon the Athletic Director position are far too many to list and I can assure you our plates are full and each day more and more is asked of us. Yet there is no statutory language that defines what we do or even states that we even exist. It is not amazing to me that since I came to the Eastern Connecticut Conference of 19 schools, seven years ago, we have had 14 different changes of Athletic Directors.

As I support the language written in House Bill 6383, I feel strongly sections 1(b) & 1(c) be amended to read:

***“Any person who holds the appropriate credentials and serves in the position of Athletic Director, prior to July 1, 2013, shall not be subject to the provisions of this section.”***

Sincerely,

*David Sousa*

David Sousa, Athletic Director  
Waterford High School

c: Senator Andrea Stillman