

THE CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION



February 15, 2013

Supportive Testimony Regarding House Bill 6383 - AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

My name is John Fontana and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, which services the coaches in Connecticut. The athletic directors in Connecticut have been tremendously impacted by significant legislation over the past few years and as a result the role of the athletic director has increased considerably. The athletic director has to insure that every coach in their program possesses a coaching permit required by law and that those permits are maintained by ongoing CEU's. Most athletic directors attend specific professional development training in order to provide those CEU's to their own staff at no cost. In 2010 legislation required education of coaches specific to concussions and the recognition of such injuries. In 2005 legislation was enacted requiring ALL coaches be evaluated. Other issues such as hazing and bullying, harassment and the use of electronic and social media have also increased the duties of the athletic director position. In addition to all this each athletic director has to deal with a deluge of parental complaints on a daily basis from most that have lost perspective as to why their child participates in sports. Athletic directors must provide ongoing efforts to insure that good sportsmanship and fair play are being learned and that a safe and healthy environment exists for each and every student athlete. The requirements placed upon the athletic position are too many to list but I can assure you their plates are full and more and more are asked of them each day.

Lastly, the position of athletic director has been identified as important member of the schools administrative team and upgraded on a national level. Fully accredited course work and an official certification program have helped define the position. Many of our Connecticut athletic directors complete this course work and recognize the importance and valuable assistance it provides them in doing their job.

Therefore, because this position has a direct impact on student safety it should not only be a mention in the state statutes but the qualifications should be set much higher than a mere coaching permit. Additionally, wording should be added grandfathering those individuals currently in their AD positions.

I would like to urge the committee to pass this important legislation which I wholeheartedly support.

Sincerely,

John Fontana

John Fontana, Executive Director

CHSCA