



March 15, 2013

Testimony of Carrie Graham, Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA)

RE: Raised HB 6483: *An Act Requiring Students Playing the Position of Goaltender in School Athletic Programs to Wear Mouth Guards*

Good morning, Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee. I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association in regard to HB 6483, *An Act Requiring Students Playing the Position of Goaltender in School Athletic Programs to Wear Mouth Guards*.

As an association of health care professionals dedicated to injury prevention and insuring appropriate medical care of athletic injuries, we certainly appreciate the sentiment behind the proposed bill. We encourage any student-athlete participating in a collision or contact sport to wear a mouth guard, regardless of whether it is required or not.

Currently, every interscholastic sport being played in Connecticut requires goalies to wear mouth guards by rule, with the exception of soccer. The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) oversees all aspects of interscholastic sports in the state, and has the ability to address the issue of requiring mouth guards for soccer goalkeepers. The CIAC is advised by the Connecticut State Medical Society, Medical Aspects of Sport Committee, on which CATA is a consultant. We believe the most appropriate forum to address this issue is through a simple rule change handled by the governing body of interscholastic sports (CIAC), rather than through legislation.

On behalf of the CATA, I encourage you to table this bill and allow the issue to be addressed by the CIAC and its medical advisors. Thank you.