



**Testimony in support of**  
**Senate Bill 966 An Act Establishing A Pilot Program To Study Injury Rates In School**  
**Athletic Programs**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**March, 15, 2013**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the almost 8,500 physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), American College of Physicians Connecticut Chapter (ACP) and the American College of Surgeons Connecticut Chapter (ACS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 966 An Act Establishing A Pilot Program To Study Injury Rates In School Athletic Programs

Many entities, organizations, associations and individuals in Connecticut have worked diligently and collaboratively over the past years to address the need to appropriately protect our young student athletes. Most recently a collaborative effort led to successful "return to play" concussion legislation. However, more needs to be done and Senate Bill 966 is the appropriate first step by putting in place the appropriate entities to study and report on incidence of injuries and concussions at the high school level over a two year period.

As has been documented to this committee in the past, more than 2 million sports related injuries occur at the high school level each year leading to more than 500,000 physician visits and 30,000 hospitalizations of high school age children. It is estimated that up to 50% of these injuries may be preventable or at least have the long term consequences lessened if tracking and reporting occurred.

Information specific to injuries of young student athletes in Connecticut is not available and no program exists to track or provide surveillance of injuries in this age cohort. The collection of data is critical. Therefore, collectively, physicians and those involved in these sports at a regulatory level cannot make decisions regarding interventions or rule changes to protect the health and safety of our student athletes in Connecticut.

Senate Bill 966 is a prudent step in the protection of our athletes. Please support Senate Bill 966.