



February 25, 2013

Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Public Health Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association, I would like to encourage you to support **S.B. No. 966 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY INJURY RATES IN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS'**, to establish a pilot program to monitor incidents of injuries to high school students during participation in interscholastic athletic activities and to establish a task force to study such injuries and make recommendations to decrease the number of such injuries.

S.B. No. 966 is a pilot program developed by the efforts of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association (CATA), the Connecticut Sports Medicine Society (CSMS), and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) as a means to gather accurate information on the incidence of athletic injuries in Connecticut high schools. Presently, there are research studies on the incidence of injuries in high schools¹. However, Connecticut does not have this crucial information, nor is there a program in place to gather this information specific to this state.

Nationally, the incidence of athletic injuries is on the rise due to an increase in student-athlete competitiveness. Research shows the majority of high-school athletic injuries occur during athletic team practices². By identifying this data, the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association in conjunction with the Connecticut Sports Medicine Society (CSMS) and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) can develop best practices as it relates to addressing the safety and prevention needs of high school student athletes. The National Athletic Trainers Association recommends the use of emergency action plans as best practice, which includes the presence of a certified athletic trainer at athletic sporting events³. However, the CATA would like to identify additional best practices based on Connecticut data. Supporting the injury surveillance pilot program will provide the Department of Public Health, the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association, Connecticut Sports Medicine Society (CSMS), the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, and other local health agencies with vital information needed to develop preventative health care policies.

Again, on behalf of the CATA I recommend that you support **S.B. No. 966 (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY INJURY RATES IN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS'**.

Respectfully,

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1. Powell, J.W. & Barber-Foss, K.D. (2000). Sex-Related Injury Patterns Among Selected High School Sports. *American Journal of Sports Medicine*. 28, 385-391.
2. Hootman, J.M., Dick, R. & Agel, J. (2007). Epidemiology of Collegiate Injuries for 15 Sports: Summary and Recommendations for Injury Prevention Initiatives. *Journal of Athletic Training*. 42, 311-319.
3. Anderson, J.C., Courson, R.W., Kleiner, D.M. & McLoda, T.A. (2002). The National Athletic Trainers Association Position statement: Emergency Planning in Athletics. *Journal of Athletic Training*, 37, 99-104.