

Testimony for HB 5113

Dear Legislator,

My name is Brian Zimmerman and I am a sports official in the sport of Lacrosse, Football, Baseball and Basketball. I live in the town of Brookfield, CT. I am writing to express my concern regarding HB 5113- AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSION.

I do not believe that officials should be required to take concussion training in order to officiate. It is not the job nor the responsibility of an official to evaluate or diagnose kids with concussion training. I officiate in three different states and am certified in every sport I work (NY, CT and NJ) by several different professional associations. The responsibility of concussions should solely fall on the parents of the children.

I have 3 children of my own two of which are in organized athletics. As I parent I understand the risk my kids take in order to benefit from the life lessons that organized sports teach you. When any of my children have been injured it has been my responsibility as a parent to do the right thing for my children not whoever coaches them. It is the organizations responsibility to enforce a positive environment for my kids to experience while they are playing. The official has very minimal to do with anything medical with any athlete.

Sincerely,

Brian Zimmerman