



**Connecticut Association of
Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony
Submitted to the
Committee on Children
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HB 5113 AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education works diligently to provide guidance to boards of education to protect the health and safety of students in the school environment. We provide a multitude of policies addressing health and safety issues within the school setting, during school transportation, and during extracurricular activities, including athletics. We also disseminate the latest in best practices on these and other issues.

CABE is very concerned that while the intent of HB 5113, An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions is laudable, the bill as drafted is overly prescriptive and, in fact, will limit the ability of those who oversee school athletic programs at the local and state level to respond and implement best practices in a timely manner. We have worked closely with the Connecticut Association of Schools, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association, a coalition of parents concerned about these issues and others over the past 6 months. This bill, rather than supporting the existing structures in place to regulate and train those involved with student athletics through CIAC, imposes additional burdens on the State Department of Education. At a time when there are a multitude of pressures on the Department to implement educational reforms, it will not be effective to put these additional requirements within the State Department of Education.

CABE strongly believes that implementation of training and enforcement is best placed with the CIAC.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that student health and safety needs are met effectively.

We appreciate your attention to this issue.