

Testimony for HB 5113 & SB 229

Laura:

I am contacting you regarding House Bill 5113 (An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions). After carefully reading and discussing its content with colleagues, I have some very serious concerns and issues regarding House Bill 5113.

I have also read proposed House Bill 229 - An Act Concerning Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention. I have many of the same concerns and issues with this bill as well. All secondary school coaches are already currently trained - by law - in First Aid, CPR and AED use which includes emergency management protocols in a sudden cardiac arrest situation. Plus all schools already have an emergency management protocol and emergency action plan in place.

In my thirty-three years as a high school athletic administrator, one thing I know and state with tremendous pride is that the CIAC, the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association have been and continue to be at the forefront and cutting edge when it comes to training, mentoring and educating coaches. And these organizations have been and continue to be at the forefront in adopting rules, regulations and guidelines that maximize safety for all athletes in all sports. Connecticut has the most stringent coaching permit requirements in the country. All coaches are required to complete a comprehensive concussion education course. The "Return To Play" after a concussion protocols we follow are both law and written by doctors. We currently provide concussion management education to our parents and student-athletes via pre-season meetings. The CIAC Football Committee recently passed rules limiting live and full contact in football practice. In summary, the current coaching education courses and modules being offered, the rules that we are governed under by the NFHS and CIAC, and the sports committees and agencies currently regulating high school sports are doing an excellent job of maximizing safety for all of our student-athletes.

I would be more than happy to discuss these proposed bills with you point by point if the opportunity arises. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

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