

Testimony for HB 5113

Dear Legislator,

My name is David McDowell and I am a sports official in the sport of Football. I live in the town of Lebanon CT. I am writing to express my concern regarding HB 5113- AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSION.

As a coach of 15 years in youth football and now a member of the CIAC (football officials) This bill being considered concerns me greatly. As a football official I do not have the ability nor do I want the responsibility or liability in determining a football players health or well being. As an official when I see a player with a issue I stop the game and have the teams coach look at the player and the coach has the option to call in a trainer and or a medical professional/ EMT that is trained for such evaluations. As a coach for 15 years I would want this no other way. A coach knows his players and a medical professional knows how to evaluate the players. Asking an official who may be paid but for all practical purposes is a volunteer who is donating his time to officiate a game he loves for what amounts to gas money to get to and from the game is a huge mistake. If this law passes the liability placed on an official is unacceptable and would cause I fear many to stop officiating. In a time when officials numbers are low and need is high this seems like the wrong bill to pass at this time.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

David McDowell

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