



# ATHLETIC TRAINER SOLUTIONS®

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February 27, 2014

Good Afternoon ladies and gentleman. My Name is Edward Kravitz. I am a resident of Wallingford, CT. I graduated from Central Connecticut University in 1994 with a BSED degree in Physical Education with a concentration in Athletic Training. I have been a board-certified and Connecticut licensed athletic trainer since 1994.

I am the president of Athletic Trainer Solutions, LLC (ATS) a per-diem athletic trainer placement agency. ATS has a staff of 124 per-diem athletic trainers. We currently provide athletic trainer coverage for more than 50 Connecticut high schools as well as middle schools, colleges, youth football, AAU Basketball, USA Wrestling, youth cheer leading competitions, youth lacrosse and other sporting events.

I am also the President of Innovative CEUs, LLC (ICEU) a National medical-based youth and secondary (middle school, and high school), on-line coaching educational program. We currently have five state department of education approved on-line courses for middle school, intramural and high school coaches. These courses include:

- Coaching Special Populations: Female Athlete, Millennium and Injured Athlete
- Team Toughness, Team Building, Developing Team Cohesion and Developing Leadership Training
- Psychological Skills Training for Scholastic Teams and Athletes
- Sports Nutrition for Teenage Athletes (Ages 13-18)
- Teen Injury Prevention

We have recently completed a comprehensive concussion course authored by one of the country's leading neurologist and will soon be launching additional coaching education courses. All courses follow the best practices of teaching and have an assessment feature to show that learning is taking place.

As you know, Connecticut already has a law that requires all interscholastic coaches to take an approved concussion course. We are far ahead of most if not all other states in this regard.

The proposed bill will require all parents, legal guardians and athletes to take an approved concussion course. This will be impossible to administer, monitor and enforce.

The proposed bill will require signed consent forms from athletes and their parents or legal guardians. Consent forms must be witnessed. Parents will be reluctant to sign these forms for fear of releasing parties from possible liability.

The coach must notify parents or legal guardians of possible concussion signs or symptoms within 24 hours. This places an undue burden of liability upon a coach.

There is a proposed 24 hour waiting period before athletes can return to practice and/or play if one suspects the signs and/or symptoms of a concussion are present. The current concussion law states that a player may return to play or practice without a waiting period provided the player is examined and released by a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner or licensed athletic trainer. Why require a waiting period if the athlete is immediately released by a trained and licensed medical expert?



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The proposed bill requires a parent or legal guardian to provide a written approval for an athlete to return to play. How does this apply if the athlete is examined and immediately released by a medical expert? Does a non-symptomatic athlete sit if a parent is not present?

The proposed bill limits contact to 90 minutes. Once again how is this monitored, policed and enforced? What are the consequences for a coach that exceeds this limit?

This bill states that all referees shall complete the proposed course. I have personally spoken with several football and basketball officials and they were all quick to agree that under no circumstances would they take such a course out of fear that this would expose them to liability and law suits.

This bill requires that reports of concussions be filed with the state department of education twice a year. Why is this necessary and what does the DOE intend to do with these reports? Is this simply more bureaucracy interfering with our personal lives?

The proposed bill requires that all youth coaches, including park and recreation, little league, AAU etc. complete an approved concussion course. This bill also proposes that all youth athletes over the age of 7 and their parents complete an approved concussion course. Once again, this will be impossible to administer, monitor and police and it will create a bureaucratic nightmare.

As for SB 229 An act concerning sudden cardiac arrest prevention, I am opposed to this bill for all of the reasons stated above.

In conclusion, may I offer a simple suggestion that may resolve some if not all of the issues and concerns that the public has for concussions and cardiac arrest. Rather than pass complex difficult to enforce laws, the Public Health Department in conjunction with the State Department of Education should simply required that licensed athletic trainers be present at all interscholastic athletic contests involving physical contact. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Kravitz, MS, ATC, LAT  
President  
Athletic Trainer Solutions, LLC