

Testimony for HB 5113

Dear Legislators,

My name is Jim Bauer and I am a sports official in the sport of Lacrosse. I live in the town of Newtown. I am writing to express my concern regarding HB 5113- AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSION. I have coached both football and lacrosse and have completed the concussion course and I am now starting Referring Lacrosse. Even though I have completed the concussion course, The role of the referees is to fairly and impartially enforce the NFHS playing rules while helping to ensure that the games are conducted in a safe environment to minimize risks for the participants. Referees do not and should not make any determination of who plays lacrosse due to injury. Referees have an obligation to watch the game being played – we can in no way determine who is hurt or how they are doing on the sideline. In addition we have no prior history with these players and many times it is cumulative effects that are devastating when concussions are concerned. **The bottom line is we have no prior experience with these players, don't have the ability to correctly determine who is hurt or not, detracts from our ability to provide a safety to the players on the field and finally have we no authority to say who is in and who should not be on the field.** While HB 5113- has good intentions officials should not be expected to perform any medical diagnosis HB 5113 should not be passed as drafted. It is not in the best interest of high school or youth sports and only increases the liability of officials, which we have a shortage of. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

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