

Dear Legislator,

My name is Thomas Sparks and I am a sports official in the sport of Football. I live in the town of Berlin. I am writing to express my concern regarding HB 5113- AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSION. Section 5 of this bill would require all interscholastic and youth officials to complete training in regards to concussions before being able to referee any games. If this section of the bill passes referees would incur increased liability because of this training. While all officials are concerned with the safety and wellbeing of all athletes we are in no position to diagnose or evaluate the condition of an athlete. As it is now, we do everything we can to notify coaches and/or trainers of players we perceive to have any type of injuries, especially head injuries.

The bottom line is that we now have a shortage of officials and this increase liability will be a deterrent to attracting new officials and may cause some existing officials to leave our ranks. Many other states have laws that give immunity to officials against law suits, to decrease their liability. This bill would increase the liability of officials.

In conclusion, HB 5113 should not be passed as it is currently drafted. The bill is well meaning, but needs to be redrafted. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tom Sparks**  
**Chief Estimator / Outside Sales**

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