

Testimony for HB 5113

Dear Legislator,

My name is Daniel Goyzueta and I am a sports official in the sport of Soccer. I live in the town of West Hartford, CT.

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding HB 5113 as drafted – AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS.

Although everyone connected with High School athletics is genuinely concerned about the health and safety of the participants, HB 5113 as drafted is ill conceived and takes a “One size fits all” approach which is problematic. It will result in numerous unintended consequences that will be detrimental to high school and youth sports. Referees are simply being asked to use their best judgment in observing and being more cognizant of athletes that may be displaying signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with concussion, and stop play to provide the opportunity for the athlete to be properly checked by the individuals in charge of their care. To prepare for this role, each year the officials are required to complete in -service training clinics. **The assessment of any injured athlete should be place in the hands of a professional staff in the medical field, we as a referees are trained to direct these concerns to them.** That's all. The officials in our state are dedicated men and women who serve the sport(s) in which they officiate, not for the fee involved, but rather for the love of the game and to help our youth. In short, although this proposed legislation is very well intended, HB 5113 should not be passed as drafted. It is not in the best interest of high school or youth sports. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Daniel Goyzueta 860-335-3244
dldj22@aol.com