

WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ELLIOTT LANDON
Superintendent of Schools

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Greetings Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Betts and Senator Linares and the distinguished members of the Children's Committee. For the record, I am Elliott Landon, Superintendent of Schools, Westport Public Schools. I have been in the position of Superintendent of Schools since July 1, 1977, a period of 37 years, and have served as Chair of the Nassau County Superintendents Association during my tenure in New York State and as Chair of the Southern Fairfield County Superintendents Association at one point during my tenure in the State of Connecticut. Speaking personally, I am respectfully submitting written testimony in support of:

Raised Bill 5113 *AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS.*

First, permit me to echo the words of Dr. Robert Cantu, Senior Advisor to the National Football League's Head, Neck and Spine Committee, "This legislation is a dramatic positive step in the right direction and has my enthusiastic support."

For those who know me, I have been a strong and vocal advocate for "mandate relief" from some legislative actions approved and implemented in the past. Despite my efforts to achieve mandate relief, I am here today to urge you vote in favor of Raised Bill 5513. I do so for the following reasons:

1. Concussion and other brain injury education for student athletes, parents and athletic officials is made mandatory.
2. No student may participate in any sport without informed consent having been signed by that student's parent or guardian.
3. Concussion-related policies and regulations that are applied to interscholastic sports are to be applied equally to youth sports organizations.
4. Suspected evidence of a concussion received by a student athlete must be reported to a parent/guardian within 24 hours.

5. There are limits on the amount of time that may be expended upon full contact practice sessions.

As a professional educator and as a parent and grandparent, I believe that the health and welfare of all children who attend our schools, including those who are involved in before and after school activities and interscholastic sports, should be the concern of all of Connecticut's citizens. I believe that the proposed legislation guarantees for our children meaningful uniformity, accountability and oversight with regard to the health and welfare of all of Connecticut's children who engage in youth athletic activities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elliott Lande". The signature is written in black ink and has a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

February 27, 2014