

To whom it may concern:

This email is to express our support for the CT HB 5113 – Concussions. We are the Matthew Gfeller Foundation of North Carolina and we are very active in the support of keeping our young athletes safe. Our Foundation supported the 2011 passing of the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Law in NC. We formed our Foundation after our son, Matthew, died in 2008 from a TBI he sustained in a high school football game.

Many of the tenants of the Gfeller - Waller law are also in the new CT bill. The CT bill has even gone further to support concussion awareness and action plans below the high school level, which is very commendable. This bill covers youth sports in a non-prescriptive way and leaves it up to youth organizations to determine how to do it. This is a landmark bill in that it is the first to address primary ways to prevent head injuries, instead of just addressing measures after the injuries occur – like the 90 minute contact practice limit. The passing of HB 5113 – Concussions in CT would give CT an up to date law, replacing one that is very out dated. The vast majority of states include certain basic provisions for education (87% of states) and informed consent (78% of states) but the current CT law does not.

We hope that this campaign is a success for the youth and parents of CT. For more information about the Matthew Gfeller Foundation, please see our web site at matthewgfellerfoundation.org.

Sincerely, Lisa and Bob Gfeller