

Testimony for HB 5113

Dear Legislator,

My name is Mike Barbaro and I am a sports official in the sport of Football. I live in the town of Wallingford.

I am writing to express my concern regarding HB 5113- AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSION

I have been a football official for 35 years. I have the responsibility to teach new officials the rules of the game, including identifying players with concussion like symptoms.

The rule book that we use to officiate the game is clear that we are not doctors and we should not act like doctors on the field. It is our responsibility to identify players who we feel may show signs of a concussion and when we do see players with these signs we are to escort them to the sideline where someone with the medical credentials determines whether that player should sit or play.

Over the past several years Concussions have been a major point of emphasis with officials, coaches and medical personnel attending to the players on the sideline.

I can tell you that from my personal experience that I have not seen one instance where we have identified a player with concussion like symptoms who reentered the game. Everyone has always taken the side of caution to protect the player.

Every year the rules committee does everything they can to protect the players. Rule changes for 2014 include a penalty for "Targeting" to further prevent this type of injury from happening.

As an official I will always enforce the rules to protect players from injury, but to ask me to make a medical diagnosis about a players medical condition is unfair and will only allow an attorney to come after me for failure to make the proper diagnosis.

I ask you to strongly consider voting against HB 5113.

Thank you,

Michael L. Barbaro
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