

**SUPPORTERS OF HB 5113,  
AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS.**

**Organizations Supporting Bill**

Association of School Nurses of CT  
CT American Academy of Pediatrics  
Brain Injury Alliance of CT  
Korey Stringer Institute-UCONN  
CT Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board  
ConcussionCorp  
CT Occupational Therapy Association  
Sports Legacy Institute  
Matthew Gfeller Foundation  
Derek Sheely Foundation

"I am proud of Connecticut for being one of the first states to endorse concussion legislation for our youth and now being the first state to address concussion prevention by limiting youth exposure to head trauma. This legislation is a dramatic positive step in the right direction and has my enthusiastic support." --**Robert C. Cantu, MA, MD, FACS, FAANS, FACSM Clinical Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Boston University Medical School, Senior Advisor NFL Head Neck and Spine Committee**

**Dr. Gerry Gioia** Ph.D. Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Director, Children's National Medical Center. Major contributing author to the updated 2007 edition of the CDC's Physician tool kit for Mild Traumatic Brain Injury "Heads Up: Brain Injury in your Practice" and the tool kits for parents and young athletes entitled "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" and for school personnel "Heads Up to Schools: Know Your Concussion ABCs."

"We can change lives with this legislation." -- **Buddy Teevens, Head Football Coach, Dartmouth University**

"The Korey Stringer Institute at the U. of Connecticut strongly supports the proposed CT legislation regarding updating the concussion policies. Concussion is a serious medical condition that is an important consideration in a wide variety of youth sports. We are especially excited that this legislation will address youth sports beyond just high school, and will focus on all sports where concussion is a concern. The media has focused a lot of attention on football, but this has done a disservice from an educational perspective, sports like soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, ice hockey, wrestling, gymnastics, and many others pose a realistic risk of a youth athlete having a concussion. This legislation helps to educate that the risk is ever-present in sport and knowledge will help us to better prevent, recognize, and treat the condition. The benefits of physical activity far outweigh the risks of potential injury, and we want kids to increase activity level. But, we need to do so in an environment that nurtures appropriate knowledge about potential injuries." --**Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA, Chief Operating Officer, Korey Stringer Institute,**

"This legislation will bring Connecticut in line with other state laws on important provisions like parent and athlete education, inclusion of recreational sports, and involvement of the state Department of Public Health. Connecticut is already a national model for training coaches on concussions. This bill would make Connecticut a leader in concussion policy, joining a handful of other states that are tuned to ongoing research and are going one step further to make sports safer for kids with primary prevention strategies and data collection to enable researchers to study the problem and evaluate the impact of the law."--**Kerri McGowan Lowrey, JD, MPH, Deputy Director, The Network for Public Health Law**

"The Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut was pleased to help author the original Concussion Act which was passed 2010, making Connecticut one of the first states to pass concussion legislation. This bill further strengthens that law and will help protect thousands of Connecticut children now and in the future." **Julie Peters, CBIS, Executive Director**

"In regard to TBI and sports, we can identify the vulnerable child and we can identify the factors that place that child at risk. Parents, coaches, referees, doctors, nurses, teachers, lawmakers: we are all links in that child's safety belt and we are only as strong as the weakest link. The revision to CT Bill 5113 unite us through education and serve to strengthen our ability to promote safe play."—**Karen Laugel, MD, President, ConcussionCorps, Inc., Chair CT American Academy of Pediatrics TBI Return to Learn**

"Thanks for your persistence in Connecticut. There are a lot of unnamed lives being changed because of your foresight." -- **Sam Wyche, former head coach, Cincinnati Bengals, Tampa Bay Bucs, Super Bowl participant.**

"Sports have inherent risk, and it is our responsibility to ensure those risks are minimized for youth athletes. Without this legislation, athletes will continue to suffer unnecessary brain damage from preventable and unrecognized concussions."--**Chris Nowinski, Founding Executive Director, Sports Legacy Institute**

"We must all face the fact that the game must be made safer. As a former head coach, I often wonder how many wins I left on the practice field by over-emphasizing technique, tempo and toughness." -- **Dick Vermeil, former head coach, Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Rams, Kansas City Chiefs, Super Bowl champion.**

"Children are some of those who are most vulnerable to the significant effects of TBI and repetitive head trauma. It only stands to reason that educating young athletes, their parents and referees about concussions will result in more effective recognition and diagnosis, as well as much needed early treatment, of head trauma. This crucial education, combined with limiting the volume of full speed practice collisions in practice, are crucial steps Connecticut should take to protect our young athletes from the long term effects of concussions". --- **Paul Slager, brain injury attorney and former President and Member of the Board of Directors, The Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut"**

Much like seat belts and car seats, safety measures like these are critical components of ensuring that our children can enjoy sports and continue with their lives after sports. We should not regret taking simple steps to protect our children."--**Kristen L. Sheely, Executive Director, The Derek Sheely Foundation**

"Your message is a good one. Safety at the high school and younger level should be the number one goal." -- **Mike Holmgren, former head coach, Green Bay Packers, Seattle Seahawks, Super Bowl champion.**

"There's a way to practice intelligently. It's not about colliding all the time. You're going to have enough contact when the game starts. In practice, the more controlled action you have, the better. That way, you'll be fit and ready to play the game. I think this approach is much needed all over the country. Help these young football players enhance their careers, but do it the right way." -- **Mike Ditka, former head coach, Chicago Bears, New Orleans Saints, Super Bowl champion.**

"As a coach, parent and expert on youth sport concussions, I believe CT needs to update our outdated law. Education for coaches/parents/athletes is a basic need. Data collection will reap essential research. CT was a leader 2010, and needs to lead again in 2014."--**Katherine Snedaker, MSW, Contributor on youth sport concussions for IOM/NRC Report; Founder SportsCAPP, PinkConcussions**

