

## Testimony for HB 5113

As a college and high school football official, I strongly object to the above listed proposed legislation, which, in effect, makes a sports official EMS-EMT certified to make a judgment on the health of a sports participant.

There is a shortage of high school and youth officials across the country as legislatures attempt to pile on additional responsibilities and requirements for what ends up being a voluntary job. A high school varsity football official in Connecticut makes about \$85 to officiate a game. We spend well over 4 hours per assignment with requirements to be at the game site one hour before the contest starts and the average drive time to reach the field. That amounts to about \$20 per hour. And with this proposed legislation, officials will be required to make medical assessments that we are not qualified to do, paid to do and be liable for our actions should something occur.

Medical assessments should be left up to the medical staff that is present at every contest. I have been an official for almost 40 years at every level from Pop Warner to the collegiate national championship game. It is a difficult avocation requiring long hours of rules study, mechanics training, clinic attendance—but it is an AVOCATION. This legislation will make it more difficult to recruit new officials and add medical requirements that are clearly beyond the purview of a football official. Maybe all legislators should try passing legislation and making medical decisions on concussions on the next person who hits his head on the wall in Hartford. I'm sure that that happens all the time.

I urge all of you to reject this legislation.

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