

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
BEACON FALLS AND PROSPECT

Woodland Regional High School

**Kurt C. Ogren**  
Principal

**Dana M. Mulligan, ED.D.**  
Assistant Principal

**Brian Fell**  
Assistant Principal  
Athletic Director

February 24, 2014

Testimony and Concern Regarding  
Senate Bill 229 - AN ACT CONCERNING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION

My name is Brian Fell and I am the Athletic Director at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, serving the towns of Prospect and Beacon Falls. I am also the President of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD). I have been a coach and Athletic Director for more than 20 years and I am writing this testimony with concerns over Senate Bill 229.

Speaking as an Athletic Director and a coach, I assure you that student safety is the primary concern of coaches and Athletic Directors state-wide. While we applaud the committee's efforts to improve the safety of student-athletes with regard to sudden cardiac events, we have significant concerns with the means and methods that this bill dictates, and their impact on finding and retaining quality coaches. Connecticut currently has comprehensive and strict training requirements in place for individuals who coach as well as for those who apply for coaching permits. A significant portion of the state mandated coaching certification course covers medical related areas of coaching, including cardiac issues. All coaches are also required to take a first aid/CPR course and maintain that certification active and current throughout their coaching tenure. This training is essential and worthwhile for coaches and I believe adequate in preparing them for their responsibilities to protect athletes from injury, including sudden cardiac events.

Adherence to the proposed provisions of this bill would create an unnecessary and redundant burden on coaches who are already asked to do much more than instruct and coach athletes. It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and keep quality coaches and an additional layer such as this bill proposes will make matters worse. Many individuals will simply choose not to coach rather than expend the extra time and expense to adhere to yet another mandate.

Sincerely,

*Brian Fell*

Brian Fell,  
Athletic Director, Woodland Regional High School  
President, Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors