

Dear Legislator,

My name is Mark Scozzafava and I live in Kent, where I have been a teacher, coach, and sports official for thirty-seven years and counting.

I am writing to express my concern for **HB 5113- AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS** as well as **SB 229- AN ACT CONCERNING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION**.

Connecticut already has the most stringent coaching permit and coaching education requirements in the country. This state offers the most extensive concussion education course required for coaches in the country. The Connecticut course covers the signs and symptoms of concussions and the chemical occurrence that happens in the brain during the concussed state. It covers other brain injuries such as brain bleeds and skull fractures, scalp and neck injuries. It also trains the coach in an extensive "return to play protocol", which is reviewed annually with all coaches. The current concussion law, the extensive coaching education requirements and the recent actions and mandates put out by the CIAC requiring concussion education for parents & students and limiting contact in football practice far exceeds what is being done in other states and is more than adequately serving and insuring the safety of our student-athletes in the state of Connecticut.

The current coaching law requires all coaches to maintain current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificates. In addition, these courses include signs, symptoms and prevention of heart attacks, causes of heart disease, breathing emergencies such as choking and the proper method for obtaining medical treatment for a student in distress. Many courses now include training in the use of an AED machine. Additionally, non-teacher coaches by statute must take a 45 clock-hour course which includes 15 hours of instruction on the medical aspects of interscholastic coaching. During those 15 hours the course covers sudden cardiac arrest in great detail. Furthermore, this law places the onus for implementation and notification on the coach rather than the school district that has many more resources to deal with these requirements.

Because state laws already exist that require coaches to have extensive ongoing education and continual first aid & CPR training, the portions of these bills that place additional requirements on coaches would create an unnecessary burden. There is already a shortage of qualified coaches. Many more will leave the profession and newcomers will be deterred. I ask that you vote against these acts.

Sincerely,

Mark Scozzafava  
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