

PERFORMANCE

Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine inc.

21-C Liberty Drive
Hebron, CT 06248
860-228-4883
Fax 860-228-0612

www.pptsm.com

171 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415
860-537-3014
Fax 860-537-1420

Christopher DiPasquale, PhD, PT, OCS, SCS, CHT
Board Certified Orthopedic & Sports Clinical Specialist
Certified Hand Therapist

February 17, 2015

Committee on Children
Connecticut State Legislature
Hartford, CT

RE: Raised Bill No. 6722 Public Hearing Testimony of Christopher DiPasquale

I am requesting that the Committee on Children consider Raised Bill No. 6722, An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics, as a vehicle to add physical therapists or at least those that are board certified Sports Clinical Specialists by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties to the list of licensed health care professionals in Connecticut Public Act No. 14-66, An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions. The list is in Sec. 2(C) and includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and athletic trainers. Not having physical therapists included in this list denies Connecticut residents an efficient and effective means of receiving the important care that this statute requires.

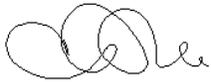
All physical therapists receive extensive education and training in the evaluation, treatment and management of neurological conditions and in practice address issues far more complex than those dealt with in return to sports concussion protocols. It is common for physical therapists to treat people that have concussions. In the past 6 months 4 of my patients had a concussion. This fall I treated a high school student that sustained a concussion and neck injury in a basketball game at a town park after school. I provided all concussion related guidance to the parent and child. The other 3 patients with concussions included a public school administrator, a public school teacher and an insurance adjustor all injured in car accidents. Treatment for each was adjusted consistent with contemporary concussion protocols. All of these patients

were referred to physical therapy by primary health care providers and none arrived with any counseling about activity modification during recovery from their concussions.

There are currently 12 physical therapists in Connecticut board certified as Sports Clinical Specialists and the national total in 2014 was 1,424. Each has met American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties criteria and passed an examination administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners. These test proficiency in concussion emergency evaluation and management as well as return to participation protocols. All sports clinical specialists must recertify every 10 years. Starting next year they must demonstrate proficiency in emergency evaluation and management every 2 years and document a minimum 20 hours each year covering collision sports to maintain certification. Meeting the collision sport requirement will be difficult in Connecticut because physical therapists are not included in the existing concussion legislation.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris DiPasquale", with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Christopher DiPasquale, PhD, PT, OCS, SCS, CHT