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February 17, 2015

Danté Bartolomeo, Senator
State Capitol
Capitol Office
Room 011
Hartford, CT 06106

Diana S. Urban, State Representative
State Capitol
Legislative Office
Room 4042
Hartford, CT 06106

Committee on Children
State Capitol
Connecticut General Assembly
Room 011
Hartford, CT 10106

Re: Raised Bill No. 6722 (Committee on Children) –
An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics

Good Afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and Members of the Committee on Children:

My name is Suzanne Levasseur. I am the Supervisor of Health Services for the Westport Public School District. I serve on the board of ConcussionCORPS, a non-profit community service organization that provides free concussion education and resources for health care providers, schools, coaches and families. I am also the President-Elect of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut. I speak on behalf of both these organizations in support of Raised Bill 6722, An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics.

Raised Bill 6722 is an excellent expansion of Connecticut's current legislation. We have seen first-hand in the educational setting that when a student suffers a concussion and returns to play prior to the resolution of symptoms, those symptoms persist longer, the chance of a second concussion is much more likely, and the overall condition is more severe. This impacts educational, social, and overall functioning of the student. It results in missed school days, in some cases for an extended period of time. While most concussions resolve in a relatively short time, the risk of a second impact prior to complete resolution greatly inhibits the healing process. Starting this education and awareness in the youth sports arena will have the desired impact of standardizing this prevention model and will have a positive impact throughout the youth's athletic career.

The concussion law of 2010 to educate coaches was an excellent step in the right direction, but it is now essential that the adults who supervise youth athletics (i.e. those in clubs, leagues, private and town teams, parks and recreational facilities, etc.) are also educated and well informed regarding appropriate recognition and response to childhood head trauma.

As the knowledge about concussions and its ramifications continue to evolve, so must our actions to protect our children and students. In summary, as a member of ConcussionCORPS and as a representative of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, we are in support of Bill No. 6722, "An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics".

Please support Raised Bill 6722, An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics.

Thank you,

Suzanne Levasseur MSN, APRN
Supervisor of Health Services, Westport Public Schools
President- Elect Association of School Nurses of Connecticut