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H.B. 6722, AN ACT CONCERNING CONCUSSIONS IN YOUTH ATHLETICS
Children Committee
February 17, 2015

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Children Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 23 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs is mindful of the growing awareness among parents and coaches, and the public as a whole, about the need for individuals with a suspected head injury to be removed from a game or practice, and seek medical attention. We take the issue of concussions and head injuries, in particular with our youth, very seriously.

We do not object to the distribution of educational materials to volunteer coaches, referees and parents, as long as they are easily accessible. We would request any materials that would be used for distribution is created by the Department of Public Health or that organizations be allowed to use information that is already

available via the CDC.

We are concerned that the proposed bill lacks liability immunity for volunteer coaches and referees. The Connecticut YMCAs ability to find volunteer coaches in many cases is difficult. Without immunity, we are concerned that identifying volunteers to spend quality time with our youth would be hindered.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs supports the overall intentions of the bill and recognizes the severity of this issue. We look forward to working with the members of the Children's Committee on this important legislation.