



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE JONATHAN STEINBERG
136TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4032
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8588
TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267
HOME: 203-226-6749

E-MAIL: Jonathan.Steinberg@cga.ct.gov

MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

**Testimony in Support of HB 6722,
An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletics**

Committee on Children

February 17, 2015

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Senator Martin, Representative Kokoruda, Senator Bye, Representative Hampton and esteemed members of the Committee on Children.

Last May, the Legislature enacted PA 14-66, reaffirming Connecticut's commitment to addressing student athlete concussion safety. But we know that adding rigorous concussion education for athletes and parents before every season was not the end of the work needed to be done.

The legislative task force created last year to address "youth sports" athletes has submitted recommendations which are more specific than the concept bill you have before you today, HB 6722. I concur with the taskforce's suggestions and urge the Committee to revise the bill so as to assure that the bill includes:

- submitted proof of completion for coaches taking the annual education program;
- mandated in-person education in addition to annual dissemination of concussion information to athlete and parent before the athlete participates in sport;
- requirement that coaches endorse Remove From Play guidelines and that health professionals deciding on an athlete's return to play strongly consider the guidelines;
- inclusion of private schools;
- collection and analysis of concussion data;
- potential extension of the taskforce for an additional year to assess compliance, effectiveness and best practices.

We recognize that the obligations for volunteer coaches in youth sports settings are more challenging than for formal scholastic sports and that private schools are often outside the bounds of state mandates. But Connecticut needs to join the many states across the country which have endeavored to protect *all student athletes* from the more serious consequences which might result from failing to address concussions swiftly and comprehensively. Please make this year's Concussion Bill a fitting completion of the important changes we made last year. Thank you.

Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, 136th District