



# CONNECTICUT PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
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**Testimony of  
James P. Leahy, CAE  
Executive Director, CT Physical Therapy Association**

**In support of  
HB 6987, AAC Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes**

**Before the Joint Committee on Public Health  
March 18, 2015**

Chairperson Gerratana, Chairperson Ritter, Members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Jim Leahy and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association. I apologize for not being present today, but I am traveling out of town.

Physical therapists are educated and trained to evaluate and manage concussions. It is a core feature of every PT's education. Despite these facts, the initial concussion legislation for high school sports failed to include physical therapists in the list of health care professionals allowed to participate in return to play protocol in Connecticut school systems. This omission puts additional burden on parents and unfairly restricts access to a large set of qualified health professionals. In addition, it unfairly burdens Connecticut based sports specialist PTs, who are specifically trained in these protocols and these settings, but may not acquire the requisite hours to recertify because of Connecticut's statutory restriction on return to play.

The Committee has an opportunity, through an amendment to Section 12 of this bill, to bring Connecticut's high school athletics return to play law in line with its public health statutes, regarding concussions. The evaluation and management of concussions is well within the current scope of practice of physical therapists. All physical therapists receive extensive education and training in the evaluation and treatment of neurological conditions. Physical therapists manage issues far more complex than those dealt with in return to participation concussion protocols. It is simply the omission from this specific statute, designed to protect our student athletes, that limits their participation in this setting.

We urge you to amend section 10-149c (2)c of the CT General Statutes to include physical therapists in the list of licensed health care professionals allowed to participate in this process.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I apologize for not being able to attend in person. If you need to reach me, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 860-810-3298.