

Testimony for the Connecticut Athletic Trainer's Association (CATA): Theresa Miyashita, PhD, ATC, LAT

To: Children's Committee

RE: Raised HB 5141

Date: February 16, 2016

Good morning **Representative Urban and Senator Bartolomeo**, and members of the Children's Committee. I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA) in regard to **HB 5141, "An Act Concerning Concussion & Youth Athletic Activities Conducted on Public Athletic Fields."** The CATA is a strong and active proponent of youth sports safety. We were very involved with the original concussion bill, and updates to the concussion bill in recent years. We appreciate the Committee's attention to ensuring the safety of youth athletes in regards to concussions. **We especially support the continued education of parents/legal guardians, coaches, and athletes.**

We do have some concerns about the bill, in regards to consistency of language and about the language itself. I have included in my written testimony our (CATA) testimony on those recommendations. I will briefly summarize our general position on areas within the bill.

- 1) We support requiring education and training for youth sports coaches, and education regarding concussions for athletes and parents. **We are especially thrilled regarding the decreased time frame of school coach's re-certification from five years to two.**
- 2) **We are supportive of the informed consent all parents/legal guardians must sign prior to their child participating on a public athletic field.**
- 3) We are supportive of concussion education for youth sports coaches and other officials receiving training in concussion education. We are supportive of safeguards to protect those individuals from liability.
- 4) **We are concerned with Section 1, subsection D regarding civil liability. We believe this subsection negates the aforementioned requirements outlined in subsection C, and as information can be distributed free-of-charge (i.e. CDC Heads Up) on municipality's websites and via email list serves, we feel the municipalities cannot be immune to civil liability if they fail to adhere to the new law's requirements.**
- 5) **We are concerned with the lack of private facilities being included, and would suggest that privately-owned athletic facilities are named and included in this bill.**

Thank you again for your attention to youth sports safety and concussion in sports. The CATA would be happy to assist the Committee in its efforts to advance the bill.