



## CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, INC.

30 REALTY DRIVE - CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410 - (203) 651-3921 FAX (203) 250-1345

### **Testimony and Concern for: H.B. No. 7253 (RAISED) EDUCATION. - 'AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES' Section 16**

My name is Fred Balsamo and I am a Wallingford resident and Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD), which represents the athletic directors in 188 high school and 150 middle school athletic programs across the state. Although very often mistaken, we are NOT the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), however, we have a tremendous working relationship and work very closely with the CIAC

Section 16 of the Raised House Bill 7253 causes our association great concern. We believe this is an attempt to create unwarranted oversight and involve outside interests into high school sports in Connecticut, to the detriment of student athletes. High school sports is much more than competing. It is the cornerstone for integrity and ethics in a society that has dwindled the meaning of those words. Student-Athletes benefit from being involved in a structured program that allows them to grow. They learn the meaning of hard work and success and how to deal with disappointment. It prepares them for life. The many benefits of being involved in a high school athletic program can only be realized if we have organization and structure.

The CIAC provides the framework where schools are allowed to compete with statewide regulations ensuring a level playing field. The CIAC is not comprised of a few people sitting in an office regulating high school sports. It is every principal and athletic director in the state serving on committees making policies and adjudicating violations. The CIAC represents ALL schools regardless of their demographics or socio-economic standing. Additionally, our schools have a tremendous amount of input into the establishment and modification of the very rules that govern them. Many of the rules the CIAC provides are developed for the sake of safety and with the guidance from principals, athletic directors and coaches they are implemented with the consultation from the Connecticut Sports Medical Society and the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association.

Section 16 specifies eight (8) areas to be examined. The response to any of these concerns can easily be attained by speaking to most principals or athletic directors serving our schools. We are concerned that this section appears to bring a political element into the regulations of high school sports that have been so carefully structured to provide fairness, guidance and safety to all our student athletes.

We believe that high schools sports are doing very well in Connecticut under the direction of the CIAC and Section 16 of this bill is not necessary.

Sincerely,

*Fred Balsamo*

Fred Balsamo. CMAA  
Executive Director