

March 15, 2017

**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 Damian Frassinelli, I am the current President of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD), I am also the Director of Athletics and Recreation for the Town of Stafford and Stafford Public Schools. My testimony here today is in opposition to Section 16 of the Raised House Bill 7253.

Although CAAD is a separate organization from the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) we share in the dedication of ensuring “best practices” for education based athletics for well over 125,000 student athletes in our State. Safety, education, sportsmanship and fairness is paramount when mapping out athletic opportunities for every individual of our membership.

In Part the Mission Statement of the CIAC is that it “believes that interscholastic athletic programs and competition are an integral part of a student’s academic, social, emotional and physical development. The CIAC promotes the academic mission of schools and honorable competition. As such, the CIAC serves as the regulatory agency for high school interscholastic athletic programs and exists to assure quality experiences that reflect high ethical standards and expectations for fairness, equity and sportsmanship for all student-athletes and coaches. The CIAC provides leadership and support for member schools through the voluntary services of dedicated school administrators, athletic directors, coaches and consultants”. They have served their membership since 1921.

The CIAC represents approximately 200 members of all demographics or socio-economic standing. All member Schools have the ability to seek guidance or clarification to a rule or regulation and CIAC has proven itself to speak to any member or individual that seeks clarity. 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. The CIAC works collaboratively with over 10,000 sport officials and over 11, 000 coaches.

Section 16 of Raised House Bill 7253 would be an unnecessary burden and not necessary. The components of Section 16 are currently evaluated, analyzed and implemented by the CIAC, its committees and Board of Control regularly.

Sincerely,

Damian Frassinelli

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