

# SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

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I am writing to express my concerns regarding Section 16 of HB 7253. This section speaks to establishing a task force to study “issues regarding governing, financing, general conduct and role of interscholastic athletics programs offered at high schools in the state.” Anyone familiar with athletics in the state of Connecticut is aware that Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) is the governing body for all high school sports. CIAC’s mission is that it “believes that interscholastic athletic programs and competitions are an integral part of a student’s academic, social, emotional and physical development. The CIAC promotes that academic mission of schools and honorable competitions. 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 of 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.”

As a 31 year educator in the state of Connecticut, I have served as a teacher, coach and currently as a school administrator. Throughout my career, I have served on several CIAC Committees, currently chair the Eligibility, Michael’s Cup and Softball Committees and serve on the CIAC Board of Control. Additionally, I am secretary/treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Schools and on the CAS Board of Governors. The CIAC provides student athletes of member schools with positive interscholastic athletic activities at the state, New England and national levels. There are currently 188 participating public, parochial, charter and magnet member high schools. Rules, regulations and policies are in place to ensure a fair, positive experience for all student athletes. There is an established system of checks and balances to deal with disagreements and policy violations. Several CIAC employees, school principals and athletic directors serve on state and national committees and ensure that Connecticut has input and puts into practice what is occurring throughout the country. Knowledgeable consultants provide input on policies and such important topics, as concussions and student athlete safety.

I question the intent of the task force. Why is there a study being requested when the CIAC addresses the topics requested: barriers, impact, finances, policies, season length, academic requirements, student enrollment. Has anyone requested to speak with any CIAC official to seek answers to the requested information that is already on hand? Is this task force an attack on the CIAC or an attempt to take it over? As a school administrator for the past fifteen years, I have seen individuals who come forth with their own personal causes because they disagree with a regulation or lost an appeal. Is the case with Section 16 of HB 7253?

I find Section 16 unnecessary and ask that it be removed from HB 7253. I would be happy to meet with anyone regarding topics that would have been addressed in the task force study or to provide clarity on any questions regarding the CIAC.

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