



National Association of School Nurses

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September 20, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) wants to thank you for holding a hearing on protecting student athletes from concussions and your plans for introducing legislation.

NASN is in support of your proposed bill because it recognizes how important it is to prevent and treat concussions caused by participation in school sports. The bill also highlights the role school nurses as key members of assessment and management teams regarding the students' conditions. Educating parents, coaches, and athletes on avoiding common sports-related injuries is often conducted by the school nurse and it is common for them to be first responders when injuries occur.

School nurses are keenly aware that sport-related concussion, or mild traumatic brain injury, is a potentially serious consequence of participation in interscholastic athletics and an important public health issue. Recent data suggest that concussions account for 8.9% of all high school sports injuries. NASN is hopeful this type of legislation will promote training efforts led by school nurses to raise awareness among parents and school personnel about the "red flags" that indicate a worsening condition or more severe head injury of students injured while participating in sports. As the primary health services position in schools, nurses welcome the provisions in this bill which promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports.

Thank you again for taking up this important issue with the Congress, and please let our Director of Government Affairs, Mary Louise Embrey, know if there is anything NASN can do to assist with the passage of this legislation. She can be reached at membrey@nasn.org.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy L. Garcia RN".

Amy Garcia, RN, MSN
Executive Director