



The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2010

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the 30,000 members of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), I would like to thank you for sponsoring the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children and adolescents are among those at greatest risk for concussion and the potential for concussion is greatest during activities where collisions can occur such as physical education classes, playground time, or school-based athletic activities. NASSP assisted the CDC in developing *Heads Up to Schools: Know Your Concussion ABCs*, educational materials and a Web site for school professionals working in grades K-12 to help them identify and respond to concussions in an array of school settings. More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>.

The Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act would require that by 2013, states must issue regulations establishing the following minimum standards:

- 1) Districts shall develop a standard, community-based plan for concussion safety and management that includes the education students, parents and school personnel about concussions; support programs for students recovering from concussion; procedures to refer students for evaluation of eligibility for special education services if their symptoms persist; and the dissemination of information on concussion safety and management to the public.
- 2) All elementary and secondary schools shall post information about concussions within the school and on the school's Web site.
- 3) If a student has sustained a concussion, he or she must be immediately removed from the activity and evaluated by a health care professional.
- 4) Students who have sustained a concussion will be reintroduced to athletic and academic activities on a progressive basis only as such increases in exertion do not cause the reemergence of symptoms.

NASSP is proud to support this legislation and looks forward to working with you to ensure that it is enacted into law. Should you have any questions about our position on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Karhuse, NASSP Director of Government Relations, at karhusea@principals.org or 703-627-6421.

Sincerely,

Gerald N. Tirozzi, Ph.D.
Executive Director