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September 22, 2010

The Honorable George Miller and Timothy H. Bishop
Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Mr. Timothy H. Bishop,

I am writing to provide my strong support for the "Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act." The Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy is committed to furthering the scientific knowledge about the long term effects of repetitive head trauma in athletes. Concussions and other forms of head trauma including repetitive subconcussive blows to the head are serious injuries that can result in long term repercussions. Further, sports-related mild brain trauma may present additional problems in youth athletes, whose brains are still developing. Youth athletes incur thousands of these injuries per year, which are often underdiagnosed and/or mistreated. The number of concussions incurred by youth athletes, the limited current knowledge about diagnosis and treatment of these injuries, and the potential repercussions if these injuries are not properly cared for, lead to a tremendous need for education on and regulation of concussions in student athletes. This Act provides the framework for both of these necessary components.

Once again, I strongly support this Act and emphasize the magnitude of the current problem and the need for education and regulation. This is so very important, not just for our children today but also for our children's continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Stern".

Robert A. Stern, PhD

Associate Professor of Neurology
Co-Director, Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy
Director, Clinical Core, Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center