



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

September 22, 2010

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the National PTA and our more than five million parents, teachers, students, and other child advocates, we are writing to express our strong support for the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act of 2010. This bill is a sensible effort to ensure systems are in place to provide American students with responsible care and educate the general public about concussions, a commonplace form of brain injury that can lead to seizures, cognitive disability, intracranial bleeding, and death if treated improperly.

Requirements in the bill for local education agencies to develop plans to deal with concussion safety and management, including raising public awareness about the facts and dangers of concussions by educating students, parents, and teachers, are necessary steps to ensure community-wide understanding and collaboration to address a serious medical issue. PTA also applauds Chairman Miller for provisions in the bill which set up practical procedures for school personnel to follow in the event that a student-athlete is suspected of having sustained a concussion and setting guidelines to be followed for the student's reintroduction to academics and athletics in the aftermath.

In light of these efforts, we support this bill as a significant step towards improving the prevention of and response to concussions for our nation's students, and we look forward to working with the Chairman to promote the health and well-being of all children. Thank you and your staff members for your efforts on behalf of youth across the country. For future reference, Health Policy Analyst James Vanderhook can be reached at jvanderhook@pta.org or 703-518-1200, ext. 3331.

Sincerely,

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