

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 72

Supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes'
Bill of Rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Mr. GERLACH (for himself and Mr. NUNES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School
Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

Whereas over 7,700,000 student athletes participated in secondary school athletics during the 2011 to 2012 academic year;

Whereas it is estimated that over the course of the 2011 to 2012 academic year, secondary school student athletes participating in 9 of the most popular high school sports, including football, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, baseball, and softball, suffered over 1,300,000 instances of injury;

Whereas 22 percent of injuries suffered by secondary school student athletes during the 2011 to 2012 academic year were concussions;

Whereas the number of concussion injuries has steadily increased from 9 percent of total injuries incurred during the 2005 to 2006 academic year to nearly 25 percent of all injuries experienced by student athletes during the 2011 to 2012 academic year;

Whereas secondary school student athletes with access to certified athletic health care professionals have lower overall injury rates, lower recurrent injury rates, and lower concussion rates than student athletes without access to certified athletic health care professionals;

Whereas with an increase in both the exposure of secondary school students to athletics and incidents of athletic-related injuries, schools are encouraged to develop and adopt best practices and standards to prevent and address student athlete injury;

Whereas the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights sets forth that secondary school student athletes have the right to—

(1) be coached by individuals who are well-trained in sport-specific safety and to be monitored by athletic health care team members;

(2) quality, regular pre-participation examinations and each athlete has the right to participate under a comprehensive concussion management plan;

(3) participate in sporting activities on safe, clean playing surfaces, in both indoor and outdoor facilities;

(4) utilize equipment and uniforms that are safe, fitted appropriately, and routinely maintained, and to ap-

appropriate personnel trained in proper removal of equipment in case of injury;

(5) participate safely in all environmental conditions where play follows approved guidelines and medical policies and procedures, with a hydration plan in place;

(6) a safe playing environment with venue-specific emergency action plans that are coordinated by the athletic health care team and regularly rehearsed with local emergency personnel;

(7) privacy of health information and proper referral for medical, psychosocial, and nutritional counseling;

(8) participate in a culture that finds “playing through pain” unacceptable unless there has been a medical assessment;

(9) immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions made by qualified sports medicine professionals; and

(10) along with their parents, the latest information about the benefits and potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries to youth athletes; and

Whereas the Secondary School Student Athletes’ Bill of Rights, which sets forth goals and ideals to improve the health, well-being, and athletic experience of secondary school students, can serve as a valuable resource to reduce injury, promote athlete safety, and encourage well-being: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses support for the principles and val-
3 ues set forth in the Secondary School Student Ath-
4 letes’ Bill of Rights;

1 (2) recognizes the importance of proper safety
2 measures, timely medical assessments, and appro-
3 priate environmental conditions in ensuring the
4 health and well-being of secondary school student
5 athletes;

6 (3) recognizes the role that teachers, parents,
7 coaches, and athletic health care team members play
8 in ensuring the safety and well-being of secondary
9 school student athletes;

10 (4) expresses support for secondary schools that
11 have successfully implemented programs, policies,
12 and practices to emphasize and encourage student
13 athlete safety and well-being; and

14 (5) encourages secondary schools to continue to
15 take all available and reasonable efforts to ensure
16 student athlete safety.

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