

THE CONCUSSION TREATMENT
AND CARE TOOLS (CONTACT) ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools (CONTACT) Act. This bipartisan legislation provides our schools and coaches with the tools needed to ensure that student athletes receive the proper care for sports-related concussions. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

On October 16, 2008, Ryne Dougherty, a 16-year-old from Montclair, New Jersey, tragically died from a brain hemorrhage after returning to play football without fully recovering from a concussion sustained earlier in the season. Unfortunately, this is not the first story of a young athlete losing his or her life early to a head injury.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, as many as 3.8 million concussions related to sports and recreation are estimated to occur in the United States each year. After sustaining one concussion, an athlete becomes as much as four to six times more likely to sustain a second concussion, and if an athlete is allowed to return to play without fully recovering from a concussion, they may face tragic consequences.

Repeat concussions can result in cumulative neurological damage and have been shown to significantly worsen long-term outcomes including depression and other psychological problems. In rare cases, a repeat concussion can trigger "second impact syndrome" which can be marked by the swelling of the brain, permanent brain damage, or even death. Because damage to a maturing brain can be catastrophic, it is even more important to ensure that the proper care is provided to young athletes.

Fortunately, repeat concussions and "second impact syndrome" are highly preventable if sensible guidelines and procedures are adopted. Many college and professional athletic associations—including the National Collegiate Athlete Association, NCAA, the National Football League, NFL, and the National Hockey League, (NHL)—and other national provider organizations—including the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Athletic Trainers' Association, and the Brain Injury Association of American—have all adopted guidelines for the management of concussions. Despite education efforts by CDC, however, much of this information has not made its way to our local middle schools and high schools.

Furthermore, pre-season and post-concussion testing technologies are widely used in college and professional sports to provide a baseline against which coaches and providers can determine when athletes are ready to return to play. These technologies are widely available and fairly affordable at as little as \$500 a year. Unfortunately, these tests are not commonly used in middle and high school sports.

By providing coaches, athletes, and parents with the tools and information needed to identify and understand the signs, symptoms, and

implications of concussions, we can help to prevent needless deaths and countless injuries. The CONTACT Act will convene experts and stakeholders to establish a consensus set of concussion management guidelines and provide states with the resources to adopt, disseminate, and ensure the implementation of concussion management guidelines for student athletes.

Madam Speaker, Congress must act now to pass this vital piece of legislation, so that we may provide our young athletes with the safety and protections that they deserve.

HONORING THE TOP DOG ALUMNI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the 2008 Top Dog Award recipients from California State University, Fresno. All award winners were honored on Friday October 10, 2008 at the Awards Gala at the Save Mart Center in Fresno, California.

The Top Dog Award is a great tradition for CSU Fresno. It allows the University to honor alumni that continue to give back to the University. There are three award categories: Distinguished Alumnus Award, Outstanding Alumni Awards and the Arthur Safstrom Service Award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor given to an alumna of the University. The award is based on scholarship, leadership and service to CSU Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley and the State of California. It has been established to provide special recognition to an individual who has distinguished themselves through outstanding achievement during their post-collegiate career. The University President and the Alumni Association present the award.

For 2008 the Distinguished Alumnus Award is being given to Nat DiBuduo, class of 1972. Mr. DiBuduo has strong roots in the Central San Joaquin Valley as a vineyard and winery owner. He attended CSU Fresno where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science/Viticulture and a minor in Business. He is also a graduate of the California Ag Leadership Program, holds a Certified Pest Control Advisor's license and a Department of Real Estate sales license. He has worked as an independent consultant overseeing farm management of 24,000 acres of winegrapes, nuts and vegetables. Today, he is President of Allied Grape Growers; a local organization that works with over 500 grower members from throughout California to competitively market the crops. During his time at CSU Fresno, he was student body vice president, but his service to the community did not stop there. He generously gives to his alma mater, and serves on the boards of the Ag One Foundation and the Fresno State Alumni Association.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards recognize CSU Fresno alumna for outstanding accomplishments in their field and to present such alumni to current CSU Fresno students as examples of exceptional achievement. The Alumni Association works in conjunction with the deans of CSU Fresno's eight schools/colleges, as well as the dean of student affairs

and the athletic director to identify and select candidates for the awards.

This year there are twelve Outstanding Alumni Awards from the various schools, colleges and divisions. The honorees are:

Dr. Robert C. Cannell (class of 1986) from the College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology. Dr. Cannell is the supply chain director for McDonald's USA and is responsible for the quality and safety of the restaurant chain's beef and pork.

Brad Lewis (class of 1980) from the College of Arts and Humanities. Mr. Lewis is a Pixar Animation Studios producer, whose movie "Ratatouille" received Oscar, Golden Globe and Clio awards.

Kern Donis (class of 1991) from the Athletics Department. Ms. Donis is a former Bulldog softball star; she played for two national titles. She is now deputy chief for the Fresno Fire Department.

Steve Heinrichs (class of 1968) from the Craig School of Business. Mr. Heinrichs is a managing partner of Bulldog Capital Partners, a venture fund that invests in new business ideas and companies with potential to contribute to the Central San Joaquin Valley economy.

Darlene Spano (class of 1969) from the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. Ms. Spano has been an elementary school teacher in Fresno for 32 years. She had embraced computer technology early enough to educate and assist her students and colleagues.

Dr. Vida Ilderem (class of 1982) from the College of Engineering. Dr. Ilderem is the vice president of physical and digital realization research at Motorola Laboratories, the applied research arm of Motorola.

Mabelle Selland (class of 1950 and 1972) from the Division of Graduate Studies. Ms. Selland's community service includes the preservation of the old Administration Building at Fresno City College, the Veterans Memorial Auditorium restoration and active participation in numerous organizations.

Pamela Loewen (class of 1966) from the College of Health and Human Services. Ms. Loewen has followed a career in military and public health nursing with extensive service to the University's Department of Nursing as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Kendall Manock (class of 1951) from the Henry Madden Library. Mr. Manock is a local attorney and has been instrumental in obtaining materials for the Library's Central Valley Political Archive. He has also worked on many other library initiatives.

Dr. Roy James Shlemon (class of 1958) from the College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Shlemon has a consulting geological practice that focuses on sites for nuclear power plants, waste facilities, large dams and residential developments throughout the world.

Thomas Williams (class of 1970) from the College of Social Sciences. Mr. Williams is the chairman and CEO of Universal Parks and Resorts, part of the NBC Universal division of GE.

Ambassador Phillip Sanchez (class of 1957 and 1972) from the Division of Student Affairs. Ambassador Sanchez retired as a newspaper publisher after government services included two ambassadorships and directing the War on Poverty as the nation's highest-ranking Latino government official.

The third award is the Arthur Safstrom Service Award; it is awarded to an alumna or