



January 27, 2023

Senate Education Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senate Education Committee:

I am writing you today on behalf of Senate Bill (SB) 82 regarding updates to the school sports head injury prevention act. As a practicing athletic trainer in Kansas, educator, and parent of a former student-athlete, I have seen how head injuries have impacted the learning abilities of students and this impact on their families.

Concussion management and protocols have changed over the years since the original bill, K.S.A 72-7119, was passed in July 2011. Updates to return-to-play and return-to-learn criteria have been continually researched and documented to provide the most comprehensive evidence-based practices. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new guidelines in Fall 2018 which outlines several components of concussion management, including recommendations on return-to-learn. Return-to-learn guidelines have continued to evolve as new research within this area becomes apparent.

The implementation of a concussion management team and evidence-based management protocols within the school setting provides safeguards for post-injury students not only in athletics, but also other extracurricular non-athletic activities as well. School administrators, nurses, athletic trainers, coaches, and teachers would work together to provide the best opportunity for student success in the classroom. This bill, SB 82, would foster communication between school administrators, families, teachers, physicians, and the student to outline an appropriate evidence-based return-to-learn protocol. This would help ensure the student is returning to the same level of comprehension and learning as prior to injury. I would appreciate support for SB 82 and the benefits it will have for our students, teachers, and parents.

Respectfully,

Rich Bomgardner, EdD

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