



**Please Support HB 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CLEARANCE OF STUDENT ATHLETES WITH CONCUSSIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN TEAM ACTIVITIES.**

This bill would simply add Physical Therapist to the list of health care providers allowed to return a Connecticut public high school or grammar school athlete to play.

This bill would not expand the scope of practice of physical therapists. It does not require a PT to make a medical diagnosis. It is already within their scope of practice to treat patients with concussions. Physical therapists are already allowed to return a collegiate or prep school athlete to the game or practice field, simply not a public school athlete.

**Qualifications of a Physical Therapist on Concussion Return to Play Decisions**

- Physical therapists receive a substantial amount of education in neurological conditions equaling 20 credit hours. This equates to 30 hours of formal instructional time/week or 450 hours/semester.
- Content includes neurological pathology of head injury at all stages, examination, diagnosis, management and treatment. Included in the education process is learning to measure and determine the deficits that are a result of the head injury, best treatment and ultimately the measurement of the extent of recovery.
- This level of education is at least equivalent to, and in some cases exceeds, that receive by those currently allowed by statute to return athletes to play such as nurse practitioners, athletic trainers, pediatricians, and internal medicine physicians.
- Currently physical therapists are treating patients with both athletic and non-athletic concussion injuries. Using appropriate tests and measures the physical therapist often determines in these patients the participation level in activities such as work and athletics. The only patients they cannot make this decision for is the high school or college athlete.
- In many cases the physical therapist is treating an athlete for symptoms and deficits related to a concussion. The therapist administers appropriate tests and measures to determine the level of recovery and then must make a referral to another provider for clearance. This provider then bases their decision on the results of the tests and the recommendations of the physical therapist. This step is wholly unnecessary.
- Physical therapists already possess the base level education necessary to make the determination on a return to athletic activity and have demonstrated that they can make those decisions for non-athletic patients. It is only appropriate that physical therapists be included in the list of providers that can clear an athlete for return to play following a concussion injury.

*For more information, please contact CPTA Executive Director Jim Leahy at 860-810-3298 or CPTA Lobbyist Mike Dugan at 860-833-2198.*