

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 83

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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 2012 to 2013 academic year;

Whereas it is estimated that in 2012, 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 every 3 minutes, a child is treated in an emergency department for a sports-related concussion, accounting

for more than 8 percent of all sports-related emergency cases;

Whereas the number of sports-related concussion injuries has doubled in the last 15 years among student athletes aged 8 to 19, despite an overall decrease in the number of students participating in sports;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest (“SCA”) is the leading cause of death for youth participating in sports or exercising, with upwards of 80 percent of those suffering from SCA being asymptomatic prior to cardiac arrest;

Whereas instances of heat-related illness have more than doubled since 1997 and affect high school football players at an average rate that is 10 times higher than that of participants in other sports;

Whereas approximately 1,500 children aged 12 to 17 were treated in an emergency department for energy drink-related emergencies in 2011;

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 in light of the increase in athletic-related injuries to student athletes, 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—

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

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

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

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

(5) to appropriate personnel trained in proper removal of equipment in case of injury;

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

(7) to 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;

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

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

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

(11) along with their parents, to 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 Senate—

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

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

10 (3) recognizes the role that teachers, parents,
11 coaches, and athletic health care team members play
12 in ensuring the safety and well-being of secondary
13 school student athletes;

14 (4) expresses support for secondary schools that
15 have successfully implemented programs, policies,
16 and practices to emphasize and encourage student
17 athlete safety and well-being; and

18 (5) encourages secondary schools to continue to
19 take all available and reasonable efforts to ensure
20 student athlete safety.

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