

April 8, 2013

To: Senator Mark Haas and the Senate Education Committee  
From: Drs Jim Chesnutt , Mick Koester and Charles Webb

Re: Opposition to SB 818

We are writing to you in opposition to SB 818 not because we do not agree that it addresses a serious medical issue but because we do not agree with the current approach and proposed strategy to address this serious cardiac issue in Oregon.

We have been specialists and leaders in Sports Medicine in Oregon and have practiced in Oregon for over 40 years collectively, covering sidelines as team physicians for high schools and colleges, and work together with other members from across the state on the OSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (Dr Koester is the chair). Our advisory committee is currently in the process of creating a new comprehensive sports emergency action plan including an extensive educational program to address not only cardiac emergencies but also other types of athletic venue emergencies as well (weather, earthquake, mass casualty situations, etc). Since no standard educational program is ready to implement, the current bill is premature and will potentially undermine current efforts to make the best coordinated program possible. We did not know that the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine was introducing this bill until recently so we were not consulted about its development so they did not know of OSAA's efforts at creating a more comprehensive plan in Oregon. Weeks ago we suggested that the bill be dropped because it is not a coordinated approach to the broader range of cardiac problems in sports. We are sorry not to be there to testify in person. We believe this stand alone bill developed outside of Oregon is NOT the best approach for Oregon.

Although we applaud the legislators, the medical professionals and others involved in supporting this bill for addressing this important cardiac issue, including the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine, we do not agree with the current approach of this bill and recommend that SB 818 NOT be passed.

Please feel free to contact any of us to discuss our concerns and recommendations.

Respectfully,

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