

To: Senate Committee on Education

Re: Senate Bill 521

March 19th, 2015

Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Oregon has been a leader in insuring the safety of our youth, being one of the first states in the country to pass concussion legislation. The passage of "Max's Law" (ORS 336.485) was one of the first of it's kind, and has had a tremendously positive impact on concussion awareness, education, and improved quality of health care for student-athletes participating in school sponsored activities, since it went into effect.

The recent addition of "Jena's Law" (ORS 417.875) was a great next step with the intention of extending the same quality of care to those students participating in non-school sponsored activities. However, as you may or may not be aware, it had unintended consequences. Due to the slight difference in language between the two bills, a discrepancy developed between students at a public school and a private school, even under the same circumstances.

If an athletic trainer determined that a student had not suffered a concussion, he or she could return a public school student back to their competition or activity, while student from a private school, under the same circumstances, could not be allowed to return until they had obtained a medical release. Not only could this potentially create an unfair field of play, it could have a negative impact on the students' experiences and result in missed opportunities.

The health and well being of the student is the primary focus for the athletic trainers in school, club, and camp settings. This bill increases the athletic trainer's ability to provide consistent quality and appropriate care for students across all extra-curricular settings. The Oregon Athletic Trainer's Society is strongly in support of this bill and would like to thank Senators Steiner Hayward, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, and Roblan, and Representatives Keny-Guyer, Davis, Buckley, and Hoyle, for brining it forward and supporting it.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,



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