



March 22, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Rooney
United States House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Pascrell
United States House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Rooney and Pascrell:

Safe Kids Worldwide strongly supports H.R. 4460, the Youth Sports Concussion Act, and applauds your leadership on this issue.

Concern about the dangers of compound concussions continues to intensify. Each year athletes suffer up to 3.8 million concussions, with sports being the second leading cause of traumatic brain injury for those 14 years and younger, according to data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Parents are anxious about allowing their child to play a contact sport, whether it's football or another sport, whether their child is a boy or a girl. This has been one of the reasons for the 2.6 million decline in youths active in sports between 2008 and 2013.

Emergency departments annually treat more than 173,000 young athletes who suffer from traumatic brain injuries while playing sports. In fact a football player may receive up to 1,500 blows to the head during a single high school season. Helmets and protective headgear have some value in preventing concussions, but they are not fail-safe. If manufacturers misrepresent and inflate what their safety equipment can do to protect the athlete, a player might miscalculate a potentially risky maneuver and jeopardize their wellbeing. For this reason we strongly support the Youth Sports Concussion Act. This bill would better ensure that the sports gear bought and used by youth athletes meets appropriate standards and that sports equipment makers do not use "anti-concussion" marketing claims that put athletes at greater risk of injury.

The Youth Sports Concussion Act would direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to review current research on youth sports concussion to ensure that safety standards for sports equipment are up to date and informed by the latest science. The bill would also authorize the Federal Trade Commission and state attorney generals to increase potential penalties for using false injury prevention claims in marketing sports equipment.

We applaud you for your continuing efforts highlighting the dangers of concussions in youth sports and we gladly offer our assistance to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Carr".

Kate Carr
President & CEO
Safe Kids Worldwide



safekids.org