

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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Rep. Urban Stands with UConn's Casey Cochran in Support of Concussion Legislation

State Representative Diana Urban (D-Stonington, North Stonington) held a press conference alongside former starting quarterback for the UConn football team, **Casey Cochran**, and advocates in support of HB 6722 just prior to the bill being voted on by the Appropriations Committee. Just last year, Casey announced that he was retiring from college football due to multiple concussions he sustained throughout his athletic career.

"We are so grateful to have Casey Cochran supporting the movement to reduce concussions in youth athletics. Casey is the perfect spokesperson because he embodies the message that one can be concerned about the dangers of concussions and still maintain a deep love for the game of football. I am so happy to have him in Hartford supporting HB 6722 and I hope my colleagues will join him in supporting this important child safety legislation," said Rep. Urban.

"I believe that this type of legislation is completely necessary for the safety and wellbeing of all youth athletes. Sports are extremely beneficial for children, but it needs to be understood that injury coincides with being an athlete. Concussions are and should be considered the most dangerous type of injury a young athlete may encounter. Parents, coaches and the young athletes themselves should be fully aware of the possible danger that may result from concussions. This type of law is not made to scare anyone away from sports, but is instead best suited to help keep our youth safe," **Casey Cochran** said.

HB 6722 aims to reduce the number of concussions in youth sports in Connecticut by requiring coaches to make information regarding concussions available to every child participant and his or her parent or guardian.

"A physical education is often as important as an academic one, but we need to ensure that Connecticut's young athletes are kept safe from the long-term consequences of concussions," said **Senator Danté Bartolomeo (D-Meriden)**, Senate Chair of the Committee on Children. "This bill will complement the concussion prevention legislation passed last year by ensuring that young people and their parents in community sports leagues receive information on concussion identification and treatment, just like those

who participate in school-based leagues. Early identification and careful treatment are critical to minimizing the risks of a concussion and allowing athletes to safely return to the field."

"Concussions are a type of brain injury. Youth athletes and their parents benefit by knowing how to recognize and treat a concussion. That is the crux of this bill - to share information about concussions with youth athletes and their parents, to improve the chances that they will take the most effective actions if they suspect a concussion. This legislation brings parents in to the conversation and extends the health and safety information we already offer to our scholastic athletes, to our athletes in sports outside of the school setting. The Commission on Children strongly supports this bill," said **Mary Kate Lowndes**, director of development and special initiatives for the Connecticut Commission on Children.

"The Parents Concussion Coalition is confident that Connecticut's legislators will vote in favor of recreational youth sport athletes and their parents receiving concussion information prior to the start of the sports season. This information is available FOR FREE from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While we would have liked to have seen more in the bill, including coach concussion education, we appreciate that legislation passes incrementally, and would be happy with continued momentum towards better concussion prevention, education and management for all of Connecticut's youth," said **Pippa Bell Ader**, member of the Parents Concussion Coalition.

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Representative Urban serves Stonington and North Stonington's 43rd Assembly District, and is the House Chair of the legislature's Children's Committee.