



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2011

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 111 [Concussion Legislation]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 111 which requires the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) to adopt regulations regarding the appropriate recognition and management of student athletes exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion. As background, SCPD collaborated with DIAA and the Department of Education on the draft legislation, and has worked with these agencies in the past regarding concussion awareness and the development of appropriate protocols and return-to-play guidelines.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation for the rationale stated in the preamble of the bill and the following reasons:

- High School athletes are more vulnerable to concussions than older athletes and may take longer to recover.
- Failure to properly manage concussion may lead to long-term cumulative consequences.
- Studies have concluded that one concussion increases the risk for a subsequent concussion, a previous history of concussion may lead to slower recovery of functions, and multiple concussions relate to worse outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Jack A. Markell
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council