

**AAP Headquarters**

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1019
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to**Department of Federal Affairs**

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

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May 19, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
United States House of Representatives
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
United States House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
United States House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Burgess, and Ranking Members Pallone and Schakowsky:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), an organization of 64,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to express our support for the *Youth Sports Concussion Act* (H.R.4460). This legislation focuses on encouraging equipment manufacturers to improve product safety standards and preventing any false or misleading claims about such equipment. Legislation that encourages better safety standards and equipment labeling is greatly needed, especially when it is estimated that up to 3.8 million recreation-and sport-related concussions occur annually in the United States.

Young athletes, including elementary, middle, and high school students, pose a unique challenge when it comes to preventing concussions because their brains are still developing and may be more susceptible to the effects of a concussion. Concussions represent an estimated 9 percent of all high school athletic injuries. In addition, girls are reported to have a higher rate of concussion than boys in similar sports. With increasing access to recreational and organized (club and school) sports, as well as better awareness and recognition of the injury, the number of concussions will likely increase.

The *Youth Sports Concussion Act* takes an important step in attempting to reduce concussions by encouraging the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to review the National Academies of Science's report on concussions, and to stay apprised of the research. It would also make it unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, or import any item or equipment for which the seller or importer, or anyone on their behalf, makes any deceptive claim about the safety benefits of the item or equipment.

The AAP appreciates your commitment to protecting our nation's children by introducing this legislation. We are pleased to support the *Youth Sports Concussion Act* and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health of all our nation's children. If the AAP can be of any further assistance, please contact Allyson Perleoni in our Washington, D.C. office at 202/347-8600 or aperleoni@aap.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benard P. Dreyer".

Benard P. Dreyer, MD, FAAP
President

BPD/arp