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To: Chair(s) Sen. Comerford and Rep. Mahoney, Vice Chair(s) Sen. Collins and Rep. Tyler, Petitioners
Rep. Schmid and Rep. Jones

My personally elected leaders Sen. Eldridge and Rep. Gentile

CC: Other Petitioners and Public Health Committee members

Thank you for the time to hear our testimony on Tuesday.

Please find attached my oral testimony draft and the petition presented to you in PDF form.

As requested here is a link to the University of Colorado study referenced:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/10/191021082749.htm>

As I noted in my testimony, our group strongly urges to committee to reach beyond the marketing machine behind the anti-football movement.

Here in this article printed in the USA Today which was touted by Mr. Nowinski in his testimony that is the catalyst behind more risk to playing younger.

Buried in the research are these 3 facts:

- " Researchers conducted interviews with family and friends of the players to determine the onset of symptoms."
 - They only tested brains of deceased that had reported symptoms of dementia or cognitive decline which shows a clear selection bias
- " Of the 211 who had CTE, 64 were college players, seven were high school players, two were semi-pro players and 138 played pro football. "
 - Only 3% of those tested finished playing football in HS.
 - If only about 4% of Massachusetts football student athletes continue to play after HS why are we so quickly dismissing the other 96% of athletes who have so much to gain and learn from this all-inclusive sport.
- Not mentioned in the article but behind the sensationalized headline is this: The average age of these respondents was 51 years old.

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- If that is the case what is happening with the other approximately 1,000,000 other players that played HS football in 1984 (the approx. graduation age)
- And as mentioned, and most important, in my testimony **ZERO** players in this entire study have had the advantage of the wave of changes that began with the advent of "heads-up" football starting in 2012.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/2018/04/30/cte-brain-diseases-start-earlier-tackle-football-played-before-12/563330002/>

I look forward to elaborating in my organizations written testimony to follow as well as meeting with any of you to further discuss the future of youth tackle football in the Commonwealth and what we are doing every day in your local communities to ensure every child in our care has safety as the number one priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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