

May 20, 2013

Senator Jay Rockefeller, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Udall  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Senator Udall:

The undersigned consumer groups write in support of the “Youth Sports Concussion Act.” This legislation will help to address the serious problem of concussions among child and teen athletes and the deceptive marketing of equipment that claims to prevent such injuries but does not.

Concussions in youth athletes are a serious safety concern. A report by the Center for Injury Research and Policy, in a study of high-school sports related injuries during the 2011-2012 school year, found that concussions were at the top of a list of the ten most common injury diagnoses by type of exposure.<sup>1</sup> The report further found that over 300,000 diagnoses of head/face concussion were made during the 2011-2012 school year.<sup>2</sup>

To begin to address the rate of young athletes’ concussions and to keep these millions of teens and children safe, your bill would allow the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to use the findings of a study by the National Academies of Science study to promulgate safety standards if necessary. In addition, by giving the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) the authority to take action against false or misleading claims related to sports equipment advertising and reconditioning, the legislation will promote greater accuracy in the information that consumers rely upon when making decisions about purchasing sports equipment.


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<sup>1</sup> See “Summary Report, National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study, 2011-2012 School Year,” <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cirp-rio-study-reports>, page 20.

<sup>2</sup> See above.

Consumers Union, Consumer Federation of America, and the National Consumers League thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,



Ami Gadhia  
Senior Policy Counsel  
Consumers Union



Rachel Weintraub  
Legislative Director and Senior Counsel  
Consumer Federation of America



Sally Greenberg  
Executive Director  
National Consumers League