

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATORS EDMONDS AND BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to make a training program accessible to athletic directors and coaches that provides important safety information for the prevention and treatment of injuries to student athletes.

WHEREAS, there are thirty-five million students playing at least one sport in the United States, and seven to ten percent of them will need medical treatment annually for a sports injury; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the preventable nature of youth sports injuries is dependent on the information available to parents and coaches regarding injury recognition and prevention; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that parents of young athletes are more concerned about injuries than any other issue at school; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2021 report by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, less than half of youth sports coaches were trained to deliver cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid, only one-third received training in injury prevention or physical conditioning, and only a quarter were trained to manage concussions; and

WHEREAS, deficiencies in education among coaches was also found in sports injuries that relate to heat exhaustion as well as mental and physical health issues that are often post-concussion consequences; and

WHEREAS, the National Council for Youth Sports recommends that training courses for youth sports coaches should include, at a minimum, emergency preparedness for traumatic injuries, concussions and head trauma, heat and extreme weather-related injury, physical conditioning and training equipment usage as well as recognition of heart defects and abnormalities that may lead to sudden cardiac death, prevention of communicable and infectious disease, recognition of mental health and substance abuse, and the prevention of destructive social behaviors; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation is intended to mitigate the liability risk caused by a lack of adequate training that leads to injury; and

WHEREAS, the legislature encourages collaboration between schools, state health officials, and athletic organizations to develop collaborative effective strategies for youth sports injury prevention.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education make a training program accessible to athletic directors and coaches that provides important safety information for the prevention and treatment of injuries of student athletes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES