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H.R. 1347: Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act of 2009

On September 16, 2010, a House of Representatives panel approved legislation to increase the government's role in protecting young athletes from sports-related concussions.

The measure known as H.R.1347: Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act of 2009 was cleared by a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee and would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convene a conference of experts to establish concussion management guidelines that address the prevention, identification, treatment and management of concussions in school-aged children, including standards for student athletes to return to play after a concussion. The HHS would also have the authority to give grants to states to implement concussion policies and buy equipment to better protect young athletes.

A recent study published in the journal Pediatrics indicates that concussions occur more frequently than once thought, and that young people, in particular, are vulnerable. A 2007 report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that up to 3.8 million concussions related to sports and recreation occur in the United States each year, and there is an increased risk for subsequent brain injuries among children/youth who have had at least one previous brain injury. In rare instances, repeat concussions can result in second impact syndrome, which can be marked by brain swelling, permanent brain damage and even death.

Given the serious nature of this risk, we expect that this issue will continue to receive national attention and will maintain momentum until the prevention, recognition and management of concussions in youth sports has been adequately addressed.

Additional information regarding H.R. 1347 Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act of 2009 can be obtained at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-1347>.

This document provides general information concerning proposed/pending government legislation with respect to concussions in youth sports. ESIX is not engaged in rendering any medical or legal opinions or compliance services with respect to these issues. This document should not be used as a substitute for proper medical or legal advice.