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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 17, 2012  
**TO:** Senate Health Policy Committee  
**FROM:** Michael F. Dabbs  
**SUBJ:** S.B. 1122 – Sports Concussion

1. Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) supports S.B. 1122
2. BIAMI has had an over 12 year history working with the MI. High School Athletic Assoc. (MHSAA) on increasing sports concussion awareness and education among coaches, trainers, school administrators, athletes and their families in Michigan.
  - o It began in 1999 with the distribution of over 10,000 sports concussion palm cards.
  - o MHSAA was recognized in 2000 by their national high school athletic federation for their sports concussion efforts and collaboration.
  - o And for the past two years, we have collaborated on legislation with Athletic Trainers, Physical Therapists, and various doctors in specialties that deal with concussions and brain injuries.
3. As I mentioned in March during my presentation to the Senate Health Policy Committee, we have worked with Rep. Hooker since May 2011 to create a bill that is modeled after the legislation that the NFL has encouraged states to adopt.
4. Due to the MHSAA's efforts to educate their coaches on sports concussion, Rep. Hooker's bill is focused on those youth athletic organizations public and private that would not be covered by the MHSAA's rules.
5. Furthermore, it will require any organization utilizing public facilities to certify their compliance with the proposed sports concussion standards.
6. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Dept. of Community Health regarding some of the requirements indicated in both S.B. 1122 and in Rep. Hooker's proposed bill, which will minimize the burden of these requirements on the department. This has not been finalized though I do not anticipate any major challenges in this effort.
7. One term used in S.B. 1122, which we have recommended to Sen. Proos' office be changed is that of "health professional." This is not an adequate term. Instead, we would propose that "licensed health professional" be substituted and defined as "who have as a recognized scope of their practice are involved in the recognition, treatment, and management of concussions."

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this important brain injury topic.

*Our Mission:* To enhance the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups, and to reduce the incidence of brain injury through prevention.