

OFFICERS

Kevin Arnold
Chairman
Grand Rapids, MI

Martha Nield
Vice Chairperson
Northville, MI

Ronald West
Secretary
Romulus, MI

Bethany Agauas
Treasurer
Troy, MI

Greta Wu
*Immediate Past
Chairperson*
Lansing, MI

Michael F. Dabbs
President
Ann Arbor, MI

DIRECTORS

Cheryl Angelelli
Clinton Township, MI

Erica Coulston
Southfield, MI

Robert Fabiano, Ph.D.
Lansing, MI

Julie Gronek, M.D.
Traverse City, MI

Jeffrey Hoover
Royal Oak, MI

Sherri M. McDaniel
Canton, MI

Linda Michaels Gruber
Riverview, MI

Jack Richert
Huron Township, MI

Steffanie Siefker
Saline, MI

George T. Sinas, Esq.
Lansing, MI

Thomas Sinas, Esq.
Grand Rapids, MI

Philip Weaver
Grand Rapids, MI

MBIPC REPRESENTATIVE

Lorraine Zorbo
Kalamazoo, MI

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Health Policy Committee

FROM: Michael F. Dabbs, President

DATE: September 6, 2016

SUBJ: Support of H.B. 5314

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's Board of Directors, I would like to express our full support of H.B. 5314.

Our Association began working with Rep. Hooker and Sen. Proos over four years ago on concussion legislation in response to the public's awakening to the significance of concussions as a brain injury. This bill is simply a refinement of the original legislation.

H.B. 5314 will improve requirements for periodic updates to the training programs; as well as to add a requirement that adults complete a training program every three years. I think we all can agree that updating training programs is important as research continues to help us learn more about concussions.

As for the requirement to have adults who work with our kids complete training programs every three years, I believe this is as essential as asking lifeguards to complete and become certified as a lifeguard, or to complete first aid and CPR training prior to assuming these responsibilities. The point of this change in H.B. 5314 is simply to ensure those working with our kids remain knowledgeable of basic information and to learn of advances that are made in our understanding of concussions, which are brain injuries and can lead to life-long effects if not properly handled when they occur.

Lastly, this bill will make a very minor modification to the original bill in regards to 17 year olds who are enrolled in an institution of higher education. Michigan State University officials brought this to our attention and in reality it is an issue that affects all of our state universities, colleges and community colleges. Many college age students participate in recreation sports at which there is limited or no direct supervision unlike club or varsity sports. This change would recognize these 17 years olds in the same way as their 18 and older peers are. In my opinion, this is a common sense change to the law.

Again, on behalf of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, we support passage of H.B. 5314 by this committee and by the Senate in order to have it enacted as soon as possible.