



December 15, 2009

Alliance on Youth Sports Safety Crisis
National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway #200
Dallas, TX 75287

To Whom It May Concern:

California Brain Injury Association (CALBIA) is pleased to join the Alliance on Youth Sports Safety Crisis and to lend our support to efforts to bring awareness to the public of the dangers to children in youth sports.

We believe strongly that legislators and other policymakers should look carefully at proposals to improve the safety of youth sports. Injuries happen, but there are steps that can be taken to minimize the impact of those injuries. We support access to health care professionals, including athletic trainers, at practice and at games; pre-participation physicals including baseline testing; safe sports equipment; research into youth sports injuries; and elimination of the "play through pain" culture.

California Brain Injury Association is a state affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), providing information and resources to individuals following a brain injury. In addition, we provide education through conferences, and strive to raise awareness of brain injury throughout the state. We also participate in advocacy through our fundraising events, specifically our annual statewide *Walk For Thought*, and we are currently scheduled to participate in Senate Hearings in Sacramento on January 13, 2010, to educate California legislators about brain injury.

CALBIA looks forward to joining with you in Sacramento on January 12 to personally demonstrate our commitment to bringing awareness to these issues.

Yours truly,

Paula Daoutis
Administrative Director

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Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, and advocacy

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