

12/16/09

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Cheer Safety Foundation (NCSF) 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, which includes cheerleading.

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; pre-participation physicals; safe sports equipment; mandatory injury reporting; research into youth sports injuries; and elimination of the “play through pain” culture.

Cheerleading is the leading cause of catastrophic injury to female high school and college athletes, accounting for 67% of catastrophic injuries more than double all 10 other sports combined. As leaders and community ambassadors, the NCSF is dedicated to applying science to risk management principals to reduce preventable catastrophic, serious and overuse injuries in cheerleading, and all youth sports.

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

Sincerely,

Kimberly Archie
Founder/CEO
National Cheer Safety Foundation