



AMERICAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION'S COUNCIL ON SPORTS INJURIES AND PHYSICAL FITNESS  
1701 Clarendon Blvd. Arlington, VA 22209 Phone: 800-261-1495 [www.acasc.org](http://www.acasc.org)

December 16, 2009

Re: The Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America.

The ACA Sports Council and its members have long recognized the implication of unrecognized and improperly cared for injuries and their subsequent consequence to an individual over a lifetime. We see patients in our offices daily who are suffering from complaints that could have easily been treated with proper intervention in their youth. Early management and recognition could save suffering and significant healthcare dollars. In light of this, we would like to support any action that would encourage the care of our young athletes. Daily activity is our goal. We certainly do not want the fear of injury to impede the process of creating a healthier America.

Mild traumatic brain injuries, concussions, and post-concussive syndromes are conditions which our profession sees both on the field and in the office. These conditions can have long-term consequences of both physical disability and behavioral results conditions which affect our society.

The presence of healthcare professionals at games and practices will clearly aid in the recognition of concussive disorders and will prevent our youth from worsening their condition by continuing to play. Once injured, athletes have a substantially higher risk of a second incident; thus, this recognition is imperative to prevent further damage to themselves as well as those around them. We believe the cost associated with ensuring the proper healthcare professionals are in place will offset the social and economic costs that are sustained to our society from physical disability and behavioral social needs in these populations.

We further recognize the majority of athlete injuries are musculoskeletal and represent a high volume of emergency room visits. It is our opinion these visits can be mitigated by properly trained staff onsite and at practice and competition. It is our hope that you will join us in our effort to strengthen the safety of our youth and insuring the fitness of America's future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Forcum".

Ted Forcum, DC, DACBSP  
ACA Sports Council, President  
'08 US Olympic Sports Medicine Team Member