

National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity



December 14, 2009

The National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (NCPA) is a diverse blend of associations, health organizations, and private corporations, advocating for policies that encourage Americans of all ages to become more physically active. That said, we are very concerned with a current youth sports safety crisis in America – that of a sharp increase in injuries despite many efforts to prevent and treat them.

Physical activity is certainly not without risk. Each year it seems that we are increasingly hearing about more brain injuries, devastating heat illness and sudden cardiac arrest (among others) being suffered by children on the today's playing fields.

NCPA wholeheartedly supports the National Athletic Trainers Association's efforts to establish an *Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America*. America's long time youth sports tradition has embraced the philosophy of "playing through pain" which may result in children brushing off telling symptoms and continuing or returning to play and exacerbating a serious situation. It is important to have properly trained personnel on hand to evaluate and manage an injury or condition. The Alliance will work to pass legislation that will help to put health care professionals in place to ensure appropriate care. It is important to safe guard the physical well being of the nation's next generation.

Sincerely,

Sheila Franklin
Executive Director