



August 15, 2012

Ms. Ellen Satlof
National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75247

Dear Ms. Satlof:

The Children's Cardiomyopathy is proud to join the National Athletic Trainers' Association in a call to action for improved early detection, prevention and emergency preparedness to protect young lives from sudden cardiac arrest. We would be pleased to join the Youth Sports Safety Alliance.

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to saving lives and improving the quality of life for children with cardiomyopathy. Cardiomyopathy is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in children, which strikes 7,000 children a year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SCA is the leading cause of death on school property, with only a 5% survival rate. Sadly, some families only learn about their child's heart condition after they have collapsed on the athletic field. While an estimated 30,000 children in the United States are living with cardiomyopathy, not enough are diagnosed and made aware of this potentially life-threatening heart disease.

Getting children with cardiomyopathy identified, properly diagnosed and appropriately treated remains a top priority for CCF. CCF is a steering committee member of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition (SCAC). The SCAC is comprised of 46 nonprofit organizations focused on increasing public awareness of SCA and promoting federal legislative and regulatory policies to increase SCA survival. CCF also worked with members of Congress to introduce the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Risk Assessment, and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act of 2011 (H.R. 3625/S. 2124). The Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Act will help educate parents, schools, and health professionals about cardiomyopathy and encourage families to evaluate their family's cardiac history, check for cardiomyopathy symptoms, and seek medical screening if necessary. It will also enable health and school professionals to be prepared should a student have an adverse cardiac event.

We look forward to working with the Youth Sports Safety Alliance on common issues of concerns. We also hope that the National Athletic Trainer's Association will join CCF, the American Heart Association and 26 other organizations in supporting the Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Bill. By working together, we can better educate parents, schools, coaches, and athletes on how to keep our nation's children safe.

Sincerely,


Lisa Yue

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