

CONCUSSIONS BILL FACT SHEET

- Title: Identifying Best Practices in Minnesota Youth Sports Concussion Prevention and Treatment
- Cost: One-time appropriation of \$450,000.
- Benefits: Improved brain health for current and future Minnesota youth athletes.
- Summary: In 2011 Minnesota enacted a youth sports concussions law. Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.37-38 (2011). Over five years later we know little about the implementation and effects of this law. The proposed bill will create a working group to study the effects of this law, and will support pilot projects to foster innovation in concussion prevention, detection, and care. The working group report and pilot project results will foster development of a Minnesota Model for identifying, evaluating, and treating youth sports concussions. The study will create no new reporting requirements and no new administrative regulations.

Of note:

- Youth sports concussions remain a high priority health concern for Minnesota students and parents. The Minnesota Department of Health conservatively estimates nearly 3,000 youth sports concussion incidents annually.¹ Parental and student concern remains high due to the incidence rate and significant media attention.
- Minnesota risks falling behind. When Minnesota passed its law in 2011 it was at the forefront of states in addressing youth sports concussions. Today, all 50 states have passed similar laws. Cutting-edge states are now *revisiting* those laws to see what works and what can be improved.²
- We have limited statewide information on youth sports concussions. It has been over five years since the 2011 bill was passed, but we still lack basic data on youth sports concussions and treatment. We need to learn whether this regulation is working.
- A small investment now will pay large dividends. Investing in this study now will facilitate additional grant proposals to the National Football League (headed to Minnesota for the Super Bowl in 2018) and the National Institutes of Health, amongst many other funders who wish to support innovative policies in this area.
- Statewide benefits. Youth sports concussions affect every county in the state, and a study that leads to improved responses to young athletes who experience concussion symptoms will produce tangible, statewide benefits. The bill requires regional diversity in supporting the pilot programs.

¹ Sarah Dugan, Leslie Seymour, Jon Roesler, Lori Glover & Mark Kinde, *This is Your Brain on Sports: Measuring Concussions in High School Athletes in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area*, Minnesota Medicine 43 (2014).

² The Network for Public Health Law, *Youth Sports Concussion Laws Resources* (2016).