

Submitter:

Rachel Gibbons

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3007

As the mother of a student who received three head injuries within two years, I have strong feelings on this topic. My daughter's first injury was in a biking accident on her way to school. Her second injury was during PE where she was required to play soccer with high school football players. That second concussion was just outside of six months later and both times I had to take time off work to go into the school and advocate for her to have appropriate accommodations. I fought for a 504 but the school staff felt that this issue was transient and didn't warrant a legally binding document. I didn't know what she needed, but the school staff should have had the information to be able to support her. My daughter's third brain injury happened in the school parking lot. Although we don't know the details of that event, other than that she was hit by a car, she will live with the side effects for the rest of her life. She is a healthy functioning young adult, but her school experience of going from being a straight A student to struggling to pay attention in class and complete expected assignments was a painful end to her high school career. It likely impacted her decision not to go to college. Since she didn't have a 504 plan, she wouldn't have been eligible for one in college. This issue isn't just about football players. Any student at any time could experience a head injury and having teachers push students to perform academically might make those side effects permanent. Yet most school staff have no idea. Please give them the tools to support students more consistently by passing this legislation.