



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich/Governor

Richard Hodges/Director of Health

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Kris Jordan
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Jordan and Members of the Sunset Review Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Ohio Youth Sports Concussion and Head Injury Return-to-Play Guidelines Committee. In 2012, HB 143 was signed into law establishing requirements for youth sports concussions. In 2014, HB 487 further clarified the law and established a concussion committee. The committee was to develop and publish guidelines addressing all of the following with regard to youth athletes exhibiting signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury. This included:

- The diagnosis and treatment of concussions and head injuries
- The conditions under which an athlete may be granted clearance to return to practice or competition (ORC 3313.539, 3707.511)
- The minimum education requirements necessary to qualify a physician or licensed health care professional to assess and clear an athlete for return to practice or competition (ORC 3313.539, 3707.511)

The concussion committee had eight members and met five times between October 2014 and March 2015. The committee fulfilled its statutory purpose with the development of recommendations and a final report in March 2015. Therefore, ODH recommends that the Ohio Youth Sports Concussion and Head Injury Return-to-Play Guidelines Committee be sunset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hodges".

Richard Hodges, MPA
Director of Health