

# American Academy of Pediatrics

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## Rhode Island Chapter

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### **Testimony in Opposition of Bill HB5087, The Children's Cardiac Safety Act**

Dear Representative McNamara and members of the committee,

I would like to provide testimony regarding The Children's Cardiac Safety Act, HB5087. I am a primary care pediatrician and have been practicing in Rhode Island since 1987. This bill's goal of preventing the tragic sudden death of interscholastic athletes is laudable. It is unacceptable for any seemingly healthy athlete to die suddenly during an athletic training session or competition. However, there are several challenges regarding how this bill's provisions will be implemented.

1. Given the current primary care provider shortage which is expected to increase dramatically over the next 5 years, our current primary care system does not have capacity to complete the suggested evaluations within a 6 week window, certainly not multiple times per year for certain athletes
2. Inclusion of an age range between kindergarten and high school as well as community based sports is well beyond the scope of any previously described cardiac screening program, and would be impossible to monitor or execute.
3. The breadth of the family history screen is far too extensive and specific for reasonable implementation in a busy primary care practice.
4. Development of a new school physical exam would be a time-consuming effort that would not substantially improve the current form and standards of care.
5. Requirement for a "modular training program" and recertification every 10 years would be another burden on the primary care system. Without clear-cut data on the efficacy of such a program on preventing sudden athletic death, it is difficult to justify the increased effort for implementation and monitoring.

HB5087 is an exceptionally well-intentioned idea, however I have many concerns about the details of the plan as well as its monitoring and enforcement and would urge you to vote against it.

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