



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

**John Mirisch, Mayor**

August 8, 2019

The Honorable Brian Maienschein  
California State Assembly, 77<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol, Room 2170  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 379 (Maienschein) Youth athletics: concussion and sudden cardiac arrest prevention protocols.

**City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Maienschein,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of your **AB 379**, which will require youth sports organizations to put in place protocols to protect youth athletes from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) similar to existing protections for concussions and require youth sports coaches and officials receive training on how to respond when a youth athlete experiences a loss of consciousness, a telltale sign of SCA.

SCA is the leading cause of death among youth athletes. According to the American Heart Association, it is estimated that 7,000 to 16,000 youths are affected by SCA annually. Despite the prevalence of SCA among youth athletes, there are no educational or training requirements for youth sports coaches and officials on how to identify and properly respond to an athlete suffering from SCA. Requiring youth sports officials to undergo education and training on how to identify and properly respond to a youth athlete experiencing SCA will ensure the athlete promptly receives the potentially lifesaving medical care they need.

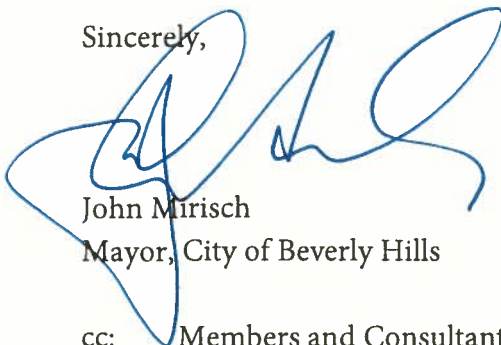
There are also no additional safety protocols in place for when a student faints or loses consciousness while engaging in sports activities. A sudden loss of consciousness is a prime indicator of SCA and youth athletes who faint or lose consciousness while engaged in sports activities should be evaluated and cleared by a medical professional before returning to those activities. According to a study conducted by the American Board of Family Medicine, 72 percent

of youth who suffered SCA were reported by their parents to have exhibited one or more symptoms prior to their SCA.

The City firmly believes that youth athletes who experience seizures during sports activities should also undergo additional medical protocols and should be included in the provisions of this bill. Additional medical screening of individuals exhibiting symptoms of SCA will help identify youth athletes with underlying heart conditions who are at greater risk.

**AB 379** will ensure that parents, coaches, and youth sports officials are prepared to respond to a youth athlete experiencing SCA and will save lives. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **AB 379**. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,



John Mirisch  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee  
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.