

1 HJR437
2 117901-2
3 By Representative DeMarco
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 25-FEB-10

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8 DIRECTING THE ALABAMA HEAD INJURY TASK FORCE TO
9 STUDY THE STATUS OF SPORTS RELATED CONCUSSIONS IN ALABAMA AND
10 URGING ALL STATE AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO
11 PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY RESULTING IN STRATEGIC PLANS TO
12 ADDRESS THE IDENTIFICATION AND APPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF SUCH
13 INJURIES.

14
15 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease
16 Control and Prevention, some 1.5 million Americans sustain a
17 traumatic brain injury each year, with 50,000 of those
18 individuals dying as a result of their injuries, and
19 approximately 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities
20 resulting from brain injury, including 74,000 Alabama
21 residents; and

22 WHEREAS, individuals with severe brain injury may
23 have serious physical, perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric,
24 emotional, and behavioral complications, including impaired
25 interpersonal and problem-solving skills, memory loss,
26 decreased thought-processing abilities and speech, seizure
27 disorders, and paralysis; and

1 WHEREAS, concussions can occur in any organized or
2 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from
3 a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground,
4 or with obstacles; concussions occur with or without loss of
5 consciousness, but the vast majority occurs without loss of
6 consciousness; and

7 WHEREAS, continuing to play with concussion or
8 symptoms of head injury leaves the young athlete especially
9 vulnerable to greater injury and even death; and

10 WHEREAS, some affected youth athletes are
11 prematurely returned to play resulting in actual or potential
12 physical injury or death to youth athletes in the State of
13 Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, there exists within the State of Alabama
15 the need for guidelines and other pertinent information to
16 inform and educate health care providers, school systems,
17 coaches, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians of the
18 nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including
19 continuing to play after concussion or head injury; and

20 WHEREAS, under the direction of the Alabama Head
21 Injury Task Force a Committee on Sports Concussion has been
22 established; and

23 WHEREAS, the full participation and cooperation of
24 each state agency, department, board, and authority and public
25 or private organizations receiving state funds is necessary to
26 achieving success with this worthwhile study; and

1 WHEREAS, potential collaborative opportunities among
2 numerous agencies will be explored and a statewide strategic
3 plan addressing this critical need will be developed,
4 including recommendations for public policy initiatives to
5 achieve the plan's goals; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge each
8 appropriate state agency, department, board, and authority and
9 public or private organizations receiving state funds to
10 participate with the Alabama Head Injury Task Force in
11 development of plans and initiatives to address the issue of
12 sports related concussion in Alabama.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
14 resolution be sent forthwith to each state department and
15 agency that they may know of our concerns in this matter.