

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Date:** January 2, 2020

**Source of Report:** Letter received from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs relating to LD 711, Resolve, To Establish a Commission to Study and Recommend a Minimum Age for Participation in Tackle Football

**Topic:** Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) and its relationship to youth tackle football

### **Context**

The concussion workgroup has met periodically since the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature convened. The focus of the concussion workgroup has been to identify credible state and national data sources and research related to CTE and determine if steps should be taken to protect the health and safety of Maine's youth, particularly those that participate in tackle football and other contact sports.

### **Actions**

Emily Poland, the school nurse consultant at the Maine Department of Education convened the concussion workgroup to engage in conversations relating to CTE on the following dates: October 25, November 1, and November 22, 2019. Representative Brennan and a member of the Maine Football Association attended the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The workgroup included representatives from the Maine Athletic Trainers Association (MATA), Maine Concussion Management Initiative, Maine Association of School Nurses, and Maine Principals' Association (MPA). The MPA sports medicine committee was informed of all the efforts conducted by the concussion workgroup.

### **Findings**

Limited data and research are available regarding the correlation between the starting age of football and CTE impact.

### **Recommendations**

The workgroup will continue to focus efforts to identify and analyze credible research on this topic. Meetings will be held monthly until July 1, 2020.

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