



March 28, 2011

The Honorable Tom Udall  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, I want to thank you for your sponsorship of S. 601, the *Children's Sports Athletic Equipment Safety Act*. If passed, your legislation will help protect children from the dangers of sports-related traumatic brain injuries.

As you may know, unintentional injury is the number one killer of children ages 1 - 14 in the U.S. While more than 30 million children participate in sports each year, more than 3.5 million youth ages 14 and under receive medical treatment for sports-related injuries annually.

In an effort to decrease the alarming number of childhood sports-related injuries, Safe Kids USA has launched a new youth sports safety initiative that is aimed at keeping kids safe and active. One of the main components of the campaign is concussion prevention and detection, as U.S. emergency departments treat an estimated 135,000 sports- and recreation-related traumatic brain injuries, including concussions, among children ages 5 to 18 each year.

Accordingly, Safe Kids strongly supports S. 601, which would ensure that new and reconditioned football helmets for high school and younger players meet safety standards that address concussion risk (if feasible) and the needs of youth athletes. As Safe Kids has seen with consumer standards for bike helmets, carbon monoxide alarms, child safety seats and cribs, these types of voluntary and mandatory regulations can play an important role in promoting safety by giving consumers peace of mind that the safety devices they are using work as intended.

If Safe Kids can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tross@safekids.org](mailto:tross@safekids.org) or 202-662-0606. Thank you for your leadership on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Tanya Chin Ross  
Director of Public Policy