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To Members Of Texas Senate Education Committee:

I Am Peck Young and I am appearing today on behalf of Mr. Dick Benson and the Will Benson Foundation. Dick wished he could be here but other family obligations make that impossible.

This is the third session that the legislation known as Will's Bill has been considered in the Texas Legislature. Today this legislation designed to protect the health and safety of young men and women engaged in extracurricular sports is we believe no longer in any manner controversial.

The Will Benson Foundation, that I represent, has worked with coaches, the representatives of school boards and teachers and has crafted a bill that we believe has the support of all these critical groups. On behalf of our Foundation I want to express our appreciation for their insightful input and cooperation.

Through this bill we will provide a safe and prompt path to all sports venues for emergency vehicles, we will be sure coaches and students will have a better chance of recognizing head injuries and we will provide for tighter requirements for accurate student health histories. With these and other steps in this legislation we will make our youth sports safer while keeping them as enjoyable and competitive as they are today.

As we have each previous session on behalf of the Benson family and the Will Benson Foundation I urge today that this committee positively report this legislation...known to some as Will's Bill... not as a tribute to one young man but much more importantly as a way to guarantee the safe competition of thousands of young Texans for years to come.

