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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION RESPONSE TO PROPOSED SAFE YOUTH FOOTBALL ACT

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Corona, CA - Recent news of two California legislators, Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), and Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) have introduced a bill called Safe Youth Football Act. This proposed bill calls for the lawful ban of youth tackle football statewide.

In a press release dated February 8, 2018, bill sponsors McCarty and Gonzalez stated that *“Children who wait until high school to play tackle football have a better chance of avoiding the net effects of CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy), including depression, memory loss and dementia.”*

The Safe Youth Football Act will be considered in the Spring of 2018. California would be the only state in the nation to set a minimum age requirement for youth tackle football.

The Southern California Football Coaches Association (SCFCA) and youth tackle football organizations throughout California agree that the safety of our children is of paramount importance. To this end, our organizations are committed to research-driven, fundamental best instructional practices for teaching safe and sound tackle football techniques.

SCFCA supports tackle football coaches from youth through college, and believe that tackle football has never been safer.

Nationwide changes, over the past decade, to coaching education and certification, game and practice rules, safety protocols, practice organization have created an environment that has made tackle football a safer game. The benefits of organized youth tackle football (teamwork, dedication, discipline, commitment and many more) are widely accepted and known.

A rudimentary google search reveals that there is no consensus in the medical community linking youth tackle football and other youth sports to long lasting brain injuries. While we support the goal of safety for our youth, this proposed bill is an overreaction to an issue we take very seriously.

Furthermore, we support the parents' right to choose appropriate activities to gain the benefits listed above for their own children. This proposed bill strips this freedom of choice from parents.

We urge you to contact your state legislators to voice your opposition to this proposed bill. You can find them here: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

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