

Testifiers for HF1714 (Hamilton): Youth Sports Concussions

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Health and Human Services Reform Committee



Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota, where he studies the intersection of brain science, law, and policy. He is a principal investigator of a new UMN Grand Challenges project: *Toward a Minnesota Model for Brain Health in Youth Sports*. As a part of this interdisciplinary project, Dr. Shen is building a statewide collaboration around the issue of youth sports concussions. Dr. Shen received his B.A. from the University of Chicago, his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He joined the UMN Law faculty in 2012, and in 2014 was the first Law School faculty member named as a McKnight Land-Grant Professor, the University's highest honor for junior faculty. He has authored numerous articles and co-authored three books, including the first Law and Neuroscience textbook. An avid sports fan and former NCAA D-III national championship qualifier in the 110 and 400 hurdles, Dr. Shen coaches the UMN Running Club sprinters, and also competes for the Twin Cities Track Club. He is the two-time defending champion in the USA Track and Field National Champion for his Masters age group in the 400m Hurdles.



Kayla Meyer is 21 years old and a junior at Minnesota State University Mankato. She suffered two separate sports concussions in hockey seven years ago that still cause daily symptoms, including a constant headache, fatigue, and sensitivity to noise. She has been an advocate on sports concussions by educating classes and helping to pass the Return to Play Bill in 2011. She testified before the legislature in 2011 on the youth sports concussion bill, and is pictured at left at the signing of the bill in 2011.