

House Bill 533 – Testimony

Marty McNair Jordan McNair's Father and Founder of The Jordan McNair Foundation.

In support of House Bill 533. I remember when the coaches from Jordan's college of choice, sat at our kitchen table a few days before National Signing Day. We asked questions about his well being and playing time. They told us if Jordan came to spring practice well conditioned, he'd get an opportunity. We were assured your child will be safe here, "we'll take care of him as if he was our own". Of course we trusted and believed them. Unfortunately that wasn't the case, when Jordan complained and was in visible distress during conditioning workouts, the coaches didn't take care of him. We didn't think to ask about an emergency action plan if Jordan or any of his teammates got hurt on the field. Like so many parents we didn't think to ask what policies were in place, what guarantees were in place if he couldn't play football again, and most importantly we didn't think to ask anything beyond our information source. While Jordan was in a hospital bed for two weeks fighting for his life from a 100 percent preventable injury we continuously asked ourselves what questions did we not ask. The Jordan McNair Safety Act will educate and empower everyone about what we unknowingly send our student athletes into as an opportunity for a college education and a chance to play at a professional level of sports. The NCAA has a mere 10,000.00 life insurance policy on all student athletes in the event of a tragedy. A student athlete's life is worth very little in the world of profitable collegiate sports, this must change. The more empowered student athletes are in their true value and self worth gives them a voice in the decisions that are made regarding their safety, education, success and overall well being.