



May 17, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson,

Sports Fans Coalition (“SFC”) is the largest fan advocacy group in the U.S. devoted to representing the interest of sports fans wherever public policy impacts the games. We were founded in 2009 and today have members in all 50 states. SFC is best known for successfully petitioning the Federal Communications Commission to end the decades-old Sports Blackout Rule, which the Commission unanimously voted to eliminate in 2014. The NFL subsequently suspended its local blackout policy. We continue to advocate for public policy that maximizes fans’ access to games, grants fans and other members of the public a fair return on any public resources devoted to sports facilities, and upholds fair play both on and off the field.

SFC thanks you for holding today’s hearing titled, “Current Issues in American Sports: Protecting the Health and Safety of American Athletes.” Fans believe that we can preserve the essence of our great sports without unfairly compromising the health and safety of athletes. SFC has called on the NFL, NHL, and other leagues to fully disclose what they know about the risk of concussions posed by their sports so that players and coaches can make informed decisions. Moreover, we believe that Members of Congress currently investigating league practices regarding concussions should not accept campaign contributions from league Political Action Committees or team owners while such investigations are pending. Tens of thousands of fans sent that very message to Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee through a campaign organized by SFC and we urge Members of your committee to heed that call. Fans want fair play, and that begins with leagues telling the public the truth.

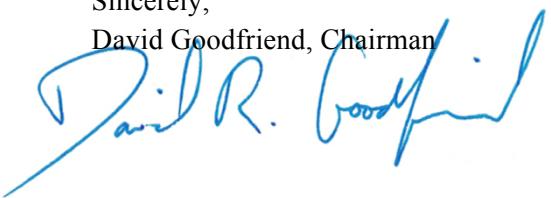
Our members do not want to see the rules of play altered to such a degree that the sports themselves become unrecognizable from their traditional origins. No one wants to see the NFL turn into a flag football league. SFC believes, however, that just as football leagues at all levels altered helmets to include facemasks, then created a new rule that no player shall “twist, turn or pull the facemask of an opponent in any direction” (NFL Rulebook at Rule 12, Sec. 2, Art. 5), leagues can and should develop

practices that reasonably protect players. At the very least, we should have full disclosure of leagues' knowledge on issues of player safety.

Thank you again for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

David Goodfriend, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Goodfriend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "David" on the first line and "R. Goodfriend" on the second line.