Dear Congress,

We the undersigned organizations recognize the importance of quality youth sports opportunities for our country’s young people, and thus support the introduction and passage of the Physical activity, Living healthy, Access, Youth development, and Safety (PLAYS) in Youth Sports Act.

Why quality youth sports matters:
• Youth sports offer a multitude of positive benefits to participants that extends far beyond the playing field.
• Sports participation has a greater association with lower school dropout rates than any other activity.¹
• Adolescents who are physically active are more likely to like go to school, graduate from high school, and have a higher GPA.²
• Regular participation in sports can improve health factors and prevent obesity, chronic diseases, and other health problems.³
• Youth who frequently attend afterschool programs, like sports programs, have less substance abuse, less misconduct, and are less aggressive than their peers who do not attend afterschool programs.⁴

PLAYS in Youth Sports Act

To further advance the positive impact of sports on our youth, we support the introduction and passage of the PLAYS Act, which is designed to promote the development of quality and safe youth sports opportunities by supporting:

• Non-profit organizations in efforts to improve the health and positive youth development impacts of youth sports participation; and municipal, county, and state efforts to set standards for out-of-school youth sports coaches;
• Research, such as studying the trends and participation in non-school based youth sports and risk prevention efforts, beneficial practices, needs assessment, and the impacts of organized sports versus free play;
• Youth sports safety research and prevention efforts;
• Background check programs for youth-serving organizations that improve the safety of youth sports participation by reducing the incidence of harm to children.

Sincerely,

National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS)
A World Fit For Kids!
All American Archery
All Things Are Possible (ATAP) Foundation
Always Positive
Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)
Amenzone Foundation
American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC)
American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA)
American Camp Association
American College of Sports Medicine
American Softball Association
American Volleyball Coaches Association
American Youth Football
At Peak
BlazeSports America
Brain-Pad
California Police Activites League (CAL-PAL)
Chantilly Youth Association
Cheer Channel
Children’s National Health System
Coach Safely
Community Rowing
Concussions in Sports, author Maryann Hudson
Daytona Beach, FL Convention & Visitors Bureau
DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (DC Trust)
Diamond Sports
Dixie Softball
DuellIFE Olympic Fencing Center
Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer
Elite Sports College Showcases
Evansville, IN Convention & Visitors Bureau
GameTime Travel
Girls in the Game
Girls on the Run International
GivingVue
Growing Champions for Life
Harlem RBI
High-Pressure Youth Sports, author Maryann Hudson
Human Kinetics
JCC Association
La Mirada Athletic Council
Long Island CVB & Sports Commission
Louisiana Youth Sports Network
Markel Insurance Company
Maryland Sports
Motova8 Inc
National Amateur Baseball Federation
National Athletic Trainers’ Association
National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI)
National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
National Police Athletic League (PAL)
National Sports Concussion Coalition
National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute
Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League Inc.
One Beat CPR+AED
Pensacola Sports Association
Photographers For Kid Safety
Pink Concussions
PONY Baseball and Softball
Pop Warner Little Scholars
Pride Soccer Club
PrivIT (e-PPE)
PT-Athletica
Raising Your Game, author Andrea Corn
Richmond Volleyball Club
Road Runners Club of America to
Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children,
  Denver Colorado
Sadler Sports & Recreation Insurance
SHAPE America
Shockstrip Inc
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
Sports Concussion Institute
Sports Doing Good
SportsCAPP
Steel Wheel's Club
Suffolk County Police Athletic League
Synchronized Swimming Coach/Education
  Researcher, Elise Timmons Lauwon
Texas Elite Sports Association
The 34 Foundation
The Center for Sport and Physical Activity
TheConcussionConference.com
Transition Management Solutions
U.S. Lacrosse
Up2Us
USA Cheer
USA Diving
USA Field Hockey
USA Shooting
USA Softball
USA Ultimate
USA Volleyball
USA Volleyball, Florida Region
USA Water Polo
We Are Golf
XPRO Gear
Youth Sports Awareness Enterprise