Dear Majority Leader and Minority Leader,

Thank you for your leadership in these trying times. While the immediate effort needs to be on saving lives and the stabilization of our economy and jobs, and there is more to be done there, we also need your leadership to begin thinking about the recovery process.

One area that has been dramatically disrupted by this crisis is youth sports. Youth sports offer a multitude of positive benefits to participants, including physical, social, emotional and cognitive perks, that extend far beyond the playing field.

- Some 60 million youth in this country are registered participants in organized youth sports programs.1
- Youth sports is an estimated $19 billion industry.2
- Sports participation has a greater association with lower school dropout rates than any other activity.3
- Physically active adolescents are more likely to like to go to school, graduate from high school, and have a higher GPA.4
- Regular participation in sports can improve health factors and prevent obesity, chronic diseases, and other health problems.5

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• 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.  

• Underserved Communities Lack Access to Youth Sports -- In 2018 33.4% of kids ages 6 -12 from homes with $25,000 or less were physically inactive, compared to just 9.9% of kids from $100.000+  

• Athletes learn resilience that is taught naturally through sport; specifically, in dealing with the feelings of personal loss, failure, adversity and mistakes.  

• Physical inactivity impacts national security. According to the Pentagon, 27% of young Americans are too overweight to qualify for military service. This gap will only widen if sports are eliminated.  

As this crisis persists, the infrastructure of youth sports, from running programs, providing coaching, and hosting events and competitions is eroding. We must provide critical support now to the youth sports community so these programs can remain for our youth as the crisis wanes.  

| Youth Sports Relief Fund |

While not unique to youth sports, coronavirus-response-resulting cancelled events and programs have had a significant impact on the youth sports sector. This economic loss applies to the youth sport program providers, particularly sports based youth development program serving at risk youth who need these opportunities the most, and youth sport event organizers, including the event hosts and a large number of employees and contractors connected to the event.  

While the CARES Act funding made available to non-profits and businesses will be helpful in stabilizing youth sports organizations, additional assistance is needed. We are calling on you to help to address this economic and job destabilizing issue by creating an economic stabilization fund of $8.5B for youth sports providers.  

The Need for Funding:  

➢ Prolonged Program Closures: The economic impact on youth sports will extend longer than many sectors of our economy. Unlike many sectors, youth sports are seeing a near 

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8 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2563797/  

complete shutdown. Youth sports, by its nature, are a group and crowd-generating activity. While other sectors can operate by remote operations and limiting contacts, that is not feasible with youth sports. Procedures will need to be developed to safely allow the sports sectors to return to full operation, given the contact and crowd generating nature of youth sports. This could necessitate an extended period of shutdown across the youth sports industry before activities can resume.

➢ **Unique Structure.** Many youth sports organizations will not qualify for some of the protections under the CARES Act such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) because of the unique structure of how youth sports organizations operate. Youth sports organizations are largely run by volunteers, contractor and seasonal coaches, not employees. However, to support their workforce, youth sports programs still have operational costs including training, background screening, programmatic planning, and member support services. These costs continue even while youth sports programs remain closed.

➢ **Devastating financial losses.** Unlike other industries, under the current social distancing rules, youth sports are not happening and thus many youth sports organizations have seen their entire revenue stream stop, particularly their membership fees/dues which are essential to program operations. Furthermore, many youth sports programs, especially the nonprofits, are particularly reliant on corporate and philanthropic giving. Much of that support often comes from local restaurants and other business who are no longer able to give and probably will not be for quite some time.

In just the youth sports sector, we estimate that there have been approximately $8.5B in losses due to coronavirus-response-related event cancellations. The force majeure clause of insurance contracts does not cover pandemics, meaning that most of the expenses related to these cancelled events are not reimbursable or insurable, leaving a potentially crippling loss. Similar losses are faced by venues scheduled to host these events that no longer can due to government restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic. The loss revenue will have a reverberating impact on airline, hotel and transportation sectors while also hitting the economic impact of local tourism (e.g. restaurants, taxis/transportation gig workers, facility rentals) resulting in further job erosion.

**The Goals of the Fund**
For these reasons, we are asking that Congress recognize this reality by extending existing CARES Act programs and creating a $8.5B stabilization fund for the youth sports sector. Organizations that can demonstrate that national health guidelines prevent their return to program, events, and general operations for an extended period will be able to apply for this funding to continue to provide the stabilization needed to keep their critical youth sports programs operational.
Youth sport providers can apply to be reimbursed for lost expenses from the coronavirus including loss of youth sports programming, camps & clinics, funding for employee and contractual-related expenses needed to continue operations (beyond the allowable period of the CARES Act,) and competition and event cancellations that are non-refundable or insurable due to the National Emergency nature of the cancellation.

This designated fund for youth sports providers will extend to all youth sports programs, organizations, and providers including sports-based youth development organizations, interscholastic sports programs, youth sports providers such as coaches, trainers, and instructors, and youth sport event providers. Priority consideration in the disbursement of these funds will be given to programs serving under-served communities such as girls, youth with disabilities and at-risk youth.

### Youth Sports Recovery Program

As we look ahead and start to plan for our Nation’s recovery, there are specific efforts that should be included for youth sports. Youth sports will not be the same following this pandemic. We will need to adapt our policies, protocols, and even equipment to deal with that new reality. An investment in recovery should include an investment to ensure the safety and the quality of youth sports in this country.

In addition to the $8.5B relief funding, Congress should create a youth sports recovery program, that will:

1. Create a Youth Sports COVID-19 Task Force to establish guidelines and protocols for the safe return and continuation of youth sports programs. This federal task force will include presentative of the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Commerce, and key leaders in youth sports. This task force will develop youth sports policies, protocols, and practices to adapt to risks of contagions, such as this coronavirus, in youth sports settings, the adoption of those by youth sports organizations, and the purchasing of the necessary equipment, such as sanitation stations, needed to carry them out.

2. Fund existing grant programs along with funding new programs to support youth sports organizations and providers in implementing the new protocols of the Task Force. This will include, but is not limited to support to implement new policies, protocols, and practices, including the purchase of the equipment needed for implementation at practices and sporting events.

### Conclusion
The youth sports sector plays a critical role in our economy and the development of our youth but has faced particularly severe consequences as a result of the coronavirus crisis and resulting national emergency. For these reasons, crucial additional steps need to be taken to stabilize the industry and invest in recovery.


We, the undersigned organizations, support these recommendations and offer our expertise and support to work with you to execute this plan.

A World Fit For Kids!
Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio
Alabama State Games
America SCORES
American Volleyball Coaches Association
Athletx Sports Group
Atlanta Performance Volleyball
Barber Elite Soccer
Baseball Done Right LLC
Baseball For All
Baseball Youth
Bay State Games
Birmingham United Soccer Association
Blue Sky Sports Center
Bluegrass Sports Commission
Brazas Futebol Club
BVB International Academy
Campbell County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Capital City Juniors
Carolina Region of USA Volleyball
Champion Women
Club One AZ Volleyball
CoachSafely Foundation
Community Rowing, Inc.
Connect Sports
Connecticut Sports Management Group, Inc.
Crush South Volleyball Club
CTX Ability Sports
Dale City Track Club
Dive San Diego
DREAM
Dugout Northbrook Baseball/Softball Academy
Equality League
Enterprise Select Soccer Club
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
FVB Umpires Association
Game Day USA
Garden Empire Volleyball Association
Girls On The Run International
Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association
GRB Academy
Gulf Coast Region of USA Volleyball
i9 Sports Corporation
Illini Elite Volleyball
Illinois Ability Sports
Iowa Sports Foundation
Koa Sports League
League of Fans
Leveling the Playing Field, Inc.
Limestone Volleyball Club
Michigan Sports Alliance
National Association for Health and Fitness
National Center for Safety Initiatives
National Congress of State Games
National Council of Youth Sports
NorCal Premier Soccer
North Country Region - USA Volleyball
Perfect Game
Pioneer Region of USA Volleyball
Playworks
PONY Baseball and Softball
Pop Warner Little Scholars
Premier Girls Fastpitch, Inc.
PRIME Soccer Club
Privit
Rank One Sport & Rank One Health
Rawlings Tigers
Real Volleyball Academy LLC
Rock Sports Group
Rocky City Volleyball Club
Roller Skating Association International
RSL-AZ North
RSL - AZ South
Saint Vrain FC
Share Winter Foundation
Slammers LLC
Softball Youth
South Mississippi Soccer Club
Sports and Social Change
Sports Endeavors, Inc.
SportsEngine
Sports Performance Volleyball Club
Sunflower State Games/Kansas Senior Games
Teammate Basketball
TeamSnap
The Alliance of Social Workers in Sports
The Squash and Education Alliance
The State Games of Oklahoma
Trailblazers Volleyball Club
Triple Crown Sports
TropheCase
Up2Us Sports
U.S. Lacrosse
U.S. Soccer Foundation
USA Field Hockey
USA Football
USA Roller Sports
USA Volleyball
USA Wrestling
VERSUS
Vestavia Hills Soccer Club
vFormity
Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc.
Volley One Academy Inc.
Wausau Central Wisconsin Sports Authority
We Coach
Willowbrook-Burr Ridge Sports Performance Center LLC
Wisconsin - Badger State Games
Youth Baseball Nationals
Youth Runner Magazine
Youth Softball Nationals
Youth Sports Collaborative Network
Youth World Series