

Chairman Wilborn and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee ,

My name is Coach Tyler Carrel, a representative of PSA (Patterson Sports Academy), which is an organization for young athletes. We are mainly made up of young ladies from the age of 6 to 22 that are more family than teammates. Our organization is based on the belief of building these young athletes in the sport they love but more importantly in life and Faith. These are strong young athletes and even stronger human beings that truly care for each other and the communities they live in.

They have been asked to do many things over the last few months from learning to do their studies online, social distance from their friends and loved ones to stay away from everything they know to be normal. They have been strong and extremely compliant with these asks even though it has caused them to struggle in many new ways. They were told by many of us and our government that if they followed the rules and guidelines, they would see friends and family again soon. They were told if they followed ,

My name is Coach Tyler Carrel, a representative of PSA (Patterson Sports Academy), which is an organization for young athletes. We are mainly made up of young ladies from the age of 6 to 22 that are more family than teammates. Our organization is based on the belief of building these young athletes in the sport they love but more importantly in life and Faith. These are strong young athletes and even stronger human beings that truly care for each other and the communities they live in.

They have been asked to do many things over the last few months from learning to do their studies online, social distance from their friends and loved ones to stay away from everything they know to be normal. They have been strong and extremely compliant with these asks even though it has caused them to struggle in many new ways. They were told by many of us and our government that if they followed the rules and guidelines, they would see friends and family again soon. They were told if they followed the guidelines they would be able to take the field to continue to grow into the future leaders in our communities.

We have asked a lot of ourselves as a country these past few months but we have asked even more of our young people. They are starting to struggle to find ways to stay healthy both mentally and physically during these times. As coaches we know that for many of these athletes, we are their sense of normalcy. We are their sense of family and faith. Sports in so many cases may be the place these athletes can seek refuge from broken homes or even mental health issues. They look to their coaches and team as a beacon of hope and the inspiration to carry on in life. We are calm, we are their strength, we are their refuge. If we delay in allowing these athletes to take the field, we are saying that we put politics first and not these amazing young people. We are telling them that their sacrifices over the past few months were for nothing but the false hope of getting back to normal, a false hope of believing that if they did what the adults said things would get better.

We have to honor the work and sacrifice these kiddos have made to flatten the curve. We have to show them that if needed in the future it is ok to give up some of our daily freedoms for the greater good. We have to give them a reason to work together as a community and a country when faced with adversity. They cannot help but watch this entire thing rip our beliefs and country apart. They have acted more as adults than any members of our government by doing what was asked of them. Please don't let your political interest dishonor their sacrifices. I fought as a United States Marine across the globe so that they could grow up and have the chance to live out their lives. We are stripping them of these liberties and we should be ashamed of ourselves. I watched my own daughter put a trash bag over herself just to

feel the warmth of a hug from her grandmother and grandfather. I wanted to break down into tears as we drove by to see her 92-year-old great grandmother at the nursing home knowing she may never truly feel that embrace ever again.

What it comes down to for me and my team / family is simple.... If we are not able to be around the people and things that make us who we are or simply better people....if we are not able to teach these young athletes how to be part of something great than themselves.....if we can not do what keeps us mentally strong.....are we even living at all or are we dying from the inside?

You have all the power in this scenario to do what is right by these kiddos. Let us begin the healing process and take the field. Let us show our children that we are above the politics of it all and for once have their best interest at heart as we make these decisions. Give them the hope of growing up in a world where we come together and not tear each other apart. These athletes have done and will do whatever we ask of them because of the trust we have built but if you do not let them take the field then you have stripped all the trust we have built. This will not only be the trust we as coaches have built but they will struggle with trusting authority for the rest of their lives. I beg of you to do the right thing and get these athletes back to their safe place, between the lines and on the field.

Sincerely,

Coach Tyler

Patterson Sports Academy

PSA Freedom