



6900 w 13th Wichita Ks 67212

To: Chairman Wilborn
State Capital
Topeka KS 67226

5-18-20

Re: Governors' response to Covid -19

Dear Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Last Friday the 15th of May was the 1st time that I had woke up and truly believed that it was going to be unlikely that we would get to play baseball this summer. We had been led to believe that if certain benchmarks were met and protocols was set up for us to play we would be able to start May 18th and that did not happen. Families and players were disappointed and very discouraged as I talked with them on Friday. The kids are seeing the constants in their lives taken away, no school, no church, no sports, no movies, no swimming pools and no get together just to name a few. Here in south central Kansas, the cities of Maize, Godard, Valley Center, Andover and Augusta have cancelled their baseball/softball seasons. What are those kids supposed to do? Westurban will be facing similar fate if we are not allowed to start playing. We are running out of time.

We hire upwards of 75 seasonal worker each summer, mostly umpires and concession staff and most of them teenagers who depend on jobs like this so that they can earn some money while school is not in session. It is not fair to them that they have to sit and wait, wondering if we are going to allowed to open. Wal-Mart can have 1000 shoppers in their store, surly we should be able to have 400 folks spread out over 20 acres or so.

I have 4 questions for the Committee that maybe we can get answers for.

1. Kids are packed in daycare like sardines, why can't we get them on a baseball field?
2. Phase 1.5 is more restrictive and punitive for us than Phase 1. Why?
3. On Friday the Governors own covid report showed us hitting the benchmarks in order to move on to Phase 2. Why did that not happen?

4. Phase 1.5 banned practice, so now I am a criminal because I like to play catch with my grandkids. Why?

I am asking on behalf of a lot of kids to help them get back on the field
I want to thank you for your consideration and time.

Eric D Blasdel

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Executive Director/General Manager
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