

Dear Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write this letter not only as a business owner, but also as a concerned parent and teacher of young adults. Our business has been greatly impacted with the closures throughout the COVID19 situation and the continued restrictions will create loss of revenue if players are not allowed on the field of play. Each day not on a field is a day in which our players are losing an opportunity towards a collegiate scholarship involving baseball. The magnitude of this mentally and financially for the family will have players discontinue the sport and might have players of all sports begin to leave the competitive field. Coaches are not able to work with players and share their knowledge, nor are they able to make the additional income that many high school teachers count on. The impact might not be immediate, but in the long road who knows how many coaches are no longer interested in coaching our youth athletics.

As a parent of two players, one high school freshman and one college freshman, this past spring has been more stressful for them. Both understood in the beginning why the mandate to stay at home, but as the pandemic continued it became more difficult to explain why some activities could still happen and why others could not. Golf courses for example are open, but players cannot have an organized practice or play games. There is plenty of room at a baseball field for social distancing. We can monitor space in dugout, have equipment bags in a different area, and keep teams from stepping on the field while another team is finishing up. These games are important for all ages but college and high school players especially as they work to reach their dreams.

I really don't want to get into why one service is open and another is closed, but explain how allowing liquor stores to be open throughout the 'situation' is appropriate but having an organized game/practice outdoors is not allowed? Explain that to any child...'daddy can buy beer but you can't play baseball'. I have bought beer so this is not about something I would not do anyway, but I would gladly give up the ability to buy alcohol for the opportunity to teach baseball in a controlled environment or outdoors. The only true explanation I can see is the monetary impact with taxes.

In closing...I was very supportive of the initial measures. However when hearing from several physicians/nurses/surgeons that hospitals are empty of COVID patients in our area I struggle with supporting the latest measures. I understand the initial movement was to ensure that our hospitals would not be overrun with patients we could not care for. That no longer seems to be the case. I appreciate you taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sincerely, Scott

Jones

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'6 most powerful words in youth athletics – I Love To Watch You Play'