



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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June 18, 2020

Governor Kate Brown  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown,

We are writing to you to express our support for the "Let Them Play" initiative regarding Oregon's high school sports and extracurricular activities.

It is our understanding that the restrictions contained in the Phase 2 reopening guidelines prohibit any sport that involves bodily contact.

Further, we understand that there will be exceptions made for college and pro sports teams to play. This not only acknowledges the fact that these activities can be engaged in safely, but it creates an unacceptable disparity that we hope will be rectified. The restrictions on youth sports seem inequitable; these rules should apply to all athletics equally, and so we join parents, coaches and youth athletes in requesting that the allowance be extended to youth sports as well.

Since the restrictions of Phase 2 will likely continue for an extended period, tens of thousands of Oregon youth will be unable to engage in sports indefinitely, impacting their physical and mental health, attendance and performance in school.

A continued moratorium on youth sports may also place students' college scholarships in jeopardy.

Our kids need to be represented fairly in this decision and a plan to allow them to engage in their activities should be developed and adopted. There are thousands of concerned parents, teachers, coaches, athletes and other citizens ready to be a part of that solution. We need swift and decisive action so our kids can begin to engage in their fall sports programs without unnecessary delays. We urge you to reconsider the restrictions on high school sports and activities.

Respectfully,

Casey Kulla  
Chair

Mary Starrett  
Vice-Chair

N/A

Richard L. "Rick" Olson  
Commissioner

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