



February 11, 2021

Board of Supervisors
44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 627
Stockton, CA 95202

Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Let Them Play Movement

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution – modeled after Assemblymember Gallagher’s resolution – in support of Let Them Play CA’s request to Governor Newsom to permit youth sports in our state to resume immediately, and in support of passage of the California State Assembly resolution in support of Let Them Play CA, which currently has the bipartisan support of over 40 legislators.

Reason for Recommendation

January 19, 2021, Let Them Play CA organizers wrote to Governor Newsom asking him to allow youth sports to resume based upon data demonstrating that youth athletic competition does not pose any significant COVID risk to the participants, or the community at large. They argue the current colored-tier system does not correlate to real data available, and will render most sports unavailable to our youth for the 2020-2021 season. Student-athletes have just four years of eligibility in which, to make an impression on a higher-learning institution that may offer a scholarship. One season missed may be the difference of a student having the opportunity to attend college, or not.

Youth sports supports healthy competition through athletic participation, reinforces good sportsmanship, and provides character building experiences. Through youth sports children benefit physically, mentally, and socially. The ban on youth sports competition is believed to be creating an alarming negative mental health impact in the areas of suicide ideation, anxiety, depression, and suicide itself. The controlled, structured, and positive environment benefits many of our youth who would possibly otherwise turn to negative activities that impact the whole community. Youth sports also present opportunities for scholarships that afford some athletes higher education opportunities they might not otherwise realize.

This resolution is in support of mothers and fathers, guardians, and youth sports organizers and coaches, but most importantly it is in support of our children. Our children deserve our support and if they choose, they deserve the opportunity to play.


Fiscal Impact

There is no additional County cost associated with the passage of the Resolution.

Action Following Board Approval

No further action required.

Respectfully,


Robert Rickman, Supervisor
District Five

c: County Administrator
County Counsel
Clerk of the Board