

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services, and  
Education Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
and Education Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

We are writing to support restoring an \$18 million appropriation for the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) in the federal fiscal year 2008 budget.

Started by Congress in 1969, NYSP ran successfully for 37 years until fiscal year 2006, when the program was eliminated from the budget. NYSP programs were able to operate in 2006 at about 25% capacity that year with some leftover funds from fiscal year 2005. We believe this program is important and are concerned about the continuation of this program as it provides critical services to the most underserved youth in this nation.

NYSP provides low-income youth with a constructive summer experience focusing on fitness, nutrition, and academic enrichment. This five-week summer program offers sports and academic enrichment at colleges and universities nationwide. NYSP introduces participants to a college campus and encourages consideration of postsecondary education as a possibility for their future.

NYSP participants benefit from mentoring and learn about the discipline and self-esteem associated with participation in organized sports. Many also receive their first exposure to substance abuse prevention and career education. They participate in math and science classes and receive at least one US Department of Agriculture approved meal each day, allowing students who participate in the school lunch program to continue receiving nutritious meals in the summer.

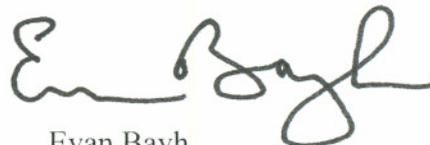
NYSP also requires that participants receive a medical examination as a requirement of participation in the program. In 2005 it was found that approximately one-third of NYSP participants had previously undiagnosed medical ailments, including asthma, allergies, high blood pressure and heart murmurs. NYSP staff work with parents and guardians to ensure that these conditions receive proper treatment and follow-up care.

We request that funding be restored at \$18 million which would enable NYSP to continue at its previous level. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator



Evan Bayh  
United States Senator

*Pete Domenici*

Senator Pete Domenici

*Susan Collins*

Senator Susan Collins

*Carl Levin*

Senator Carl Levin

*Herb Kohl*

Senator Herb Kohl

*Chris Dodd*

Senator Chris Dodd

*Deborah Stabenow*

Senator Deborah Stabenow

*Edward M. Kennedy*

Senator Edward Kennedy

*Russell Feingold*

Senator Russell Feingold

*Blanche L. Lincoln*

Senator Blanche Lincoln

*Barbara Boxer*

Senator Barbara Boxer

*Olympia Snowe*

Senator Olympia Snowe

*Joseph Lieberman*

Senator Joseph Lieberman

*Sherrod Brown*

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*Richard Durbin*

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*Robert Menendez*

Senator Robert Menendez

*Hillary Rodham Clinton*

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

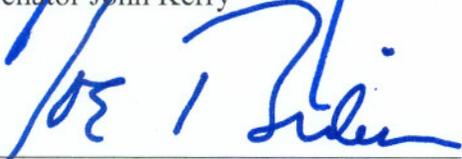
*Jeff Bingaman*

Senator Jeff Bingaman

*Mary Landrieu*

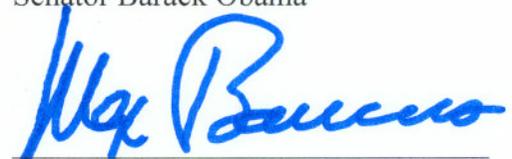
Senator Mary Landrieu

  
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Senator John Kerry

  
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Senator Joseph Biden

  
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Senator Kent Conrad

  
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Senator Barack Obama

  
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Senator Max Baucus

  
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