



**THE SUSTAINED PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN TEAM SPORTS (SPORTS) ACT**

When the National Football League fails to respond appropriately to domestic violence, traumatic brain injuries, or other pressing concerns, it sends the wrong message to the league's millions of fans and to the public as a whole. The NFL, like the three other major sports leagues (NBA, NHL, and MLB), isn't just a recipient of the public's trust; it's a major beneficiary of public benefits provided by Congress. And perhaps no public benefit does more for the major sports leagues than their exemption from the antitrust laws that bind other American businesses. Largely unchanged since 1961, these exemptions have provided significant financial support and other benefits for the leagues regardless of their actions.

The SPORTS Act would cancel this blank check and require the leagues to demonstrate that they deserve the public's ongoing support. Under the legislation:

- The professional sports leagues' antitrust exemptions under the 1961 Sports Broadcasting Act, and the comparable treatment for MLB, will sunset one year after the bill's enactment.
- Before the exemptions sunset, Congress will go through an expedited process—comparable to the budget reconciliation process—that guarantees an up or down vote on a five year reauthorization. The process will repeat every time the exemptions are set to sunset, creating a system in which Congress has an up-or-down, majority vote on reauthorization every five years. There will be no filibusters or other dilatory tactics that could delay a reauthorization and inappropriately disrupt the leagues' operations. And there will be no amendments, so no unjustified policy changes will move through as part of this potentially must-pass legislation.
- Ninety-five days before each time the exemption is scheduled to sunset, a special commission, composed of heads of Executive Branch offices with jurisdiction over issues relevant to the leagues, will provide Congress with a report regarding the leagues' behavior. In particular, the Commission's report will discuss how the leagues have treated their employees and how they have responded to inappropriate conduct by their employees and owners. The Commission's report will ensure that when Congress decides whether to grant the leagues a public benefit—their antitrust exemptions—it has access to a thorough, fair, and honest assessment of whether the leagues have served or harmed the public interest.

For more information, visit: <http://blumenthal.senate.gov/sports>