

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

**Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on
“Improving Access to Care: Legislation to Reauthorize Key Public Health Programs”
July 29, 2020**

**Travis T. Tygart
Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Anti-Doping Agency**

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ):

1. Mr. Tygart, H.R. 5373 would add to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency’s (USADA) authorization a directive to promote positive experiences for youth sports. Can you share what USADA is currently doing for youth sports and how your organization is creating a positive sporting culture? Why do you believe this authorization language is important?

In addition to ensuring elite athletes are educated on what substance are prohibited in sport, how to obtain exemptions, and how to submit whereabouts information so they can be tested without notice at any time, we also have created our [TrueSport](#) program that provides powerful educational tools to equip young athletes with the resources to build life skills and core values for success on and off the field of play. We focus on sportsmanship—winning the right way by following the rules and having respect and gratitude for teammates, coaches, parents and competitors. We also stress life skills, using sport to instill good attitudes and behaviors such as teamwork, inclusivity, perseverance, courage, and honesty. And we believe being healthy and developing healthy habits are critical to creating a positive sporting culture. This wellness-centric approach permeates all of our educational materials, including programs on mental health, bullying and body image.

The TrueSport program has grown exponentially since its inception nearly a decade ago. Our methodology to effectuate cultural change is to connect various sport groups with expert-informed, pragmatic and consumable resources. Initiated in 2017, our partner program alone has connected TrueSport content and expert-informed resources to over 13 million. And we create monthly content shared at no cost with our 43 sport national governing body partners. With one such partner, USA Swimming, we have collaborated with to produce a digital educational platform that provides character and life-skills education for 6-12 years old’s and which has seen average digital engagement of approximately 1.7 million annually.

We also offer opportunities to engage through TrueSport Ambassadors, event and camp participation, coaching education, expert video series and content packages. And we are working alongside a growing number of community-based sport partnerships to contribute to the conversation around access to sport, particularly in under-resourced communities, and to help lengthen the span of time our young athletes remain in sport. We believe that now, more than ever, young athletes need sport to deliver on its promises and that our communities, our young people, and our collective futures are all stronger when we engage athletes at all levels in the pursuit of building character through sport.

2. Mr. Tygart, the bill H.R. 5373 directs the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Food and Drug Administration to coordinate with USADA on efforts to prevent the use of performance-enhancing drugs or prohibit performance-enhancing methods by sharing all information in their possession that may be relevant to preventing the use of such drugs or prohibiting such methods. In what ways does USADA interact with these agencies now? How will this language enhance USADA's charge to run the Nation's anti-doping program?

USADA currently has a strong relationship with federal law enforcement agencies as evidenced by successful collaboration in multiple investigations, including investigations into the production of a designer steroid at BALCO and most recently into equine doping. In the BALCO investigation, USADA's Chief Science Officer assisted federal agents during the search of the BALCO facility and served as an expert witness on steroids and doping in sport in related criminal proceedings. Due to certain limitations in place on sharing information obtained from a subpoena issued in a criminal investigation, the Senate Commerce Committee intervened by subpoenaing BALCO materials (emails, calendars, etc.) and transferring them to USADA for use in USADA's disciplinary process. This information was critical in ensuring no medals would be won by BALCO athletes at the 2004 Olympic Games. Although there was strong collaboration between USADA and law enforcement, this intervention highlights the need for a long-term information-sharing solution between USADA and law enforcement.

With respect to the recent federal investigation into equine doping, USADA forwarded to law enforcement information received through USADA's Whistleblower platform about a veterinarian in Florida who was allegedly providing steroids to human athletes while at the same time working in the equine industry. Successful collaboration among USADA, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation culminated in 27 indictments of individuals involved in a racehorse doping ring. This exemplifies the importance of information sharing between USADA and law enforcement.

Successful collaboration between USADA and law enforcement is not guaranteed as it is subject to the willingness of law enforcement leadership in place in the relevant agency at a specific point in time. That is why H.R. 5373 is so important. The bill will remove the

potential for ad-hoc collaboration and create a consistent, harmonized approach amongst law enforcement agencies with which USADA most frequently collaborates. Facilitating effective collaboration between USADA and law enforcement agencies could not come at a more critical juncture with the 2028 Olympic Games being held in the United States and athletes and materials coming to and through the United States in the lead up to those Games.

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA):

1. Why should we consider doping a public health issue?

While the use of performance enhancing drugs in elite competition rightly captures the lion's share of media attention due to the positions of influence athletes hold and the harm cheating inflicts on clean athletes, performance enhancing drugs are becoming more widespread in society—widely available on the internet—and in many cases poorly regulated (e.g., dietary supplements and peptides). Unlike new drugs, dietary supplements are not reviewed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration based on their safety and effectiveness. Further, performance-enhancing synthetic peptides are not categorized as Controlled Substances, like steroids and narcotics, making enforcement actions on unscrupulous internet suppliers difficult. Marketing of performance enhancing drugs is also problematic because we are increasingly seeing targeted marketing campaigns to aging and physically active adults likening drugs like hormone replacement therapies to a fountain of youth—treating symptoms rather than a properly diagnosed disease and promoting profit over best practice medical care—and they are used by image-conscious youth whose self-esteem is becoming increasingly intertwined with the number of “likes” and “followers” on social media. The increased number of rehabilitation centers speaks to the volume of individuals being harmed by pharmaceuticals of one type or another.

Simply stated, doping is a public health issue because ordinary Americans are ingesting, whether on purpose or by accident through contaminated supplements, performance enhancing drugs such as steroids or experimental compounds that alter their hormonal systems and fertility, or stimulants, opioids, and other illicit drugs that compromise concentration, ability to sleep, and the ability to work and maintain family relationships. The extent of adverse health effects is either unknown or understated, as these drugs can be extremely dangerous and, in certain situations, deadly.

In sum, what we used to think of as a problem limited to elite athletes cheating in sport, we now understand to be a public health issue. And the negative effects these drugs can have across our society make USADA's mission paramount as to why athletes, many of whom serve as role models and even cultural icons, should never have to consider using performance enhancing drugs to achieve their dreams.