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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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December 19, 2014

Mr. Scott Hallenbeck
Executive Director
USA Football
45 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 700
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Hallenbeck,

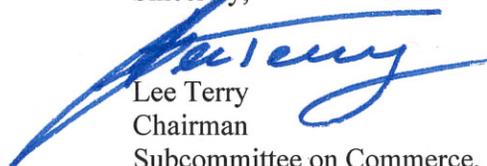
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade on Thursday, March 13, 2014 to testify at the hearing entitled "Improving Sports Safety: A Multifaceted Approach."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions by the close of business on Monday, January 5, 2015. Your responses should be e-mailed to the Legislative Clerk in Word format at Kirby.Howard@mail.house.gov and mailed to Kirby Howard, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Lee Terry
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade

cc: Jan Schakowsky, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky

1. Football helmets, especially in youth and high school football, are often reconditioned, which involves cleaning of pads and hardware and the repair or replacement of parts as needed. Beginning in 2012, the National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA) implemented a policy that it will not refurbish football helmets that are 10 or more years old. In announcing this policy, NAERA President Ed Fisher told the *New York Times*, "I would want my son, and anybody's son, to be in a helmet less than 10 years old. We need to get the older ones off the field."
 - a. As "football's national governing body," does USA Football require that teams replace all helmets 10 or more years old? Why or why not?
 - b. New football helmets can cost from \$100 to \$400 each. How often do youth football teams typically replace helmets with newer models?
 - c. Does USA Football require teams to have their helmets reconditioned on a regular basis? If so, how often must youth team helmets be reconditioned? If not, how often do youth football teams typically recondition their helmets?

2. According to a report in the *New York Times*, football helmets more than 10 years old are worn by about 100,000 young players every season. In 2012, USA Football and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, partnered with a number of public and private entities on a pilot program to replace youth football helmets 10 years old or older in an effort to better protect the safety of young players.
 - a. Has the helmet replacement program continued past its initial 2012 pilot? If so, how many helmets have been replaced in each year since the partnership began in 2012? If not, why not?
 - b. What was the average age of the helmets that were replaced through the program?
 - c. When do you expect that we will eliminate all youth helmets over 10 years old?

3. I appreciate the steps USA Football has taken to address the safety of young athletes around the country as they learn how to play football. Football is one of the nation's most high-profile sports, and implementing best practices at the youth level is critical.

In written testimony submitted for the Subcommittee hearing on March 13, 2014, you mentioned that not only has USA Football sought to teach young players how to play the game right, but also that your organization donated \$1 million last year for equipment and uniforms, based on need and merit.

- a. The safety of equipment is an important factor in player safety. What steps do you take to test the quality of the equipment that is donated by USA Football?

- b. Is the donated equipment mostly new or reconditioned? For reconditioned equipment, how do you ensure that it is properly reconditioned?
 - c. What percent of the \$1 million in equipment donated last year was awarded based on need?
 - d. Data from 2010 indicates that 500,000 young football players, particularly in poorer communities, wore helmets that autumn which had not undergone basic reconditioning. I would think that your organization would be in a perfect position to alleviate this problem, which endangers the brain health of so many young football players in the country. In cases where new football helmets are not an option, what is USA Football capable of doing to get properly reconditioned helmets to these young football players, whose programs or school districts so often cannot afford the expense of reconditioning? Does your organization have concrete plans to expand its role in this area?
4. A key component of USA Football's sports concussion efforts is its "Heads Up Tackling" initiative, which teaches young players tackling techniques intended to reduce the incidence of concussions. However, in a recent article on ESPN.com, investigative reporters Steve Fainaru and Mark Fainaru-Wada, authors of the book *League of Denial*, highlighted statements raised by critics questioning the usefulness of the program, including one from a former NFL player describing Heads Up as "a product that the NFL is selling" to "create the illusion that the game is safe or can be made safe."
- a. Does USA Football monitor and record injury data for both its tackle and flag football programs?
 - b. How does the safety of tackle football compare with flag football for children under 14?
 - c. Has "Heads Up Tackling" reduced injuries among youth players? If so, please provide statistics and documentation supporting that conclusion. If not, please explain why not.
 - d. In 2013, over 25% of youth leagues nationwide registered for your Heads Up Football program. Generally, why did nearly 75% of leagues not register, and how do you plan to increase the share of those who do?