Let kids play.

YOUTH SPORTS SHOULDN'T BE A RIPOFF

Let Kids Play Act: Banning Private Equity from Youth Sports

Youth sports used to be a cornerstone of community life and a level playing field for every child. Now it's a $40 billion industry that's become a ripoff for American families. The cost to participate has risen 46 percent in five years, with many families paying more than $5000 per kid each year. Families face rising fees for registration, equipment, and travel, putting organized sports out of reach for millions of kids.

Private equity firms are driving these rising costs, buying up the leagues, facilities, tournaments, and player platforms. After consolidating control over every part of the youth sports experience, from the field to the phone screen, these investors extract as much money as possible through vulture practices such as:

- ✗ **Take-it-or-leave-it terms that trap players:** Families are strong-armed into contracts that limit their choices with terms banning participation in competing leagues, locking them into multiple seasons, or steering them into costly travel programs with no real way to opt out.
- ✗ **Junk fees that jack up prices:** The costs start climbing as soon as families sign up. Mandatory fees, surprise charges, and inflated prices show up throughout the season. With no middle ground option between paying up or walking away, families are locked into these mounting costs.
- ✗ **Stay-to-play schemes that hold teams hostage:** Families are required to book hotels, travel, and other services with companies partnered with private equity or face team disqualification.
- ✗ **Systems that mine kids' data for profit:** The same systems that run registration and track performance also collect detailed information about young athletes and their families, from physical metrics to financial data, and turn it into another way to make money off kids.

Let Kids Play Act

The **Let Kids Play Act** stops Wall Street from pricing our kids out of sports by banning both private equity vulture investors and the vulture practices they use to rip people off. And it establishes strong enforcement tools to hold them accountable for the damage they cause:

- ✓ **Mandatory exit from youth sports:** Private equity firms are automatically designated as vulture investors and banned from youth sports -- leagues, facilities, tournaments, and player platforms -- unless they prove they have never used vulture practices. Banned investors must sell their ownership stakes and management rights within two years.
- ✓ **Refunds to families:** This bill requires vulture investors to provide full refunds for any junk fees collected through vulture practices, cancels any predatory contracts, and wipes out any outstanding debts, interest, or late fees that were imposed by the private equity firms.
- ✓ **Liability for debts and safety violations:** Private equity vulture investors are held personally and financially responsible for any debts, legal judgments, or law violations, including child safety and labor infractions, that occur while they are in charge.
- ✓ **Youth Sports Fund:** Any penalties paid or money taken from these private equity firms is placed into a dedicated fund to provide scholarships, reduce costs for families, and keep local fields open for free community use.
- ✓ **Rights for communities and families:** This bill gives states and parents legal standing to sue private equity firms in youth sports, stop their vulture practices, and receive compensation for any financial losses or harm they have caused.

ChrisMurphy
U.S. SENATOR

CONGRESSMAN
CHRIS DELUZIO
Pennsylvania's 17th District