

Advocates Promoting Physical Activity Support the PLAY Every Day Act (S.651, H.R. 2045)

June 25, 2007

We, the undersigned, represent a range of nonprofit organizations and corporations that believe in promoting physical activity and community livability, and write to express our strong support for the **PLAY Every Day Act (H.R. 2045)**.

The Institute of Medicine, the U.S. Surgeon General and public health experts agree that children and youth need at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day. Most kids do not get near that amount on a daily basis, and indeed, only one third of high school students get that amount right now. In an era of increasing academic testing, there just is not 60 minutes of time during the school day to offer kids with physical activity options. To realistically accomplish the goal of 60 minutes a day, we are going to have to find ways to provide kids with at least 30 minutes during the school day and 30 minutes before and after the school day.

The Play Every Day Bill helps promote the national recommendation of physical activity to kids, families, and communities across the country. The bill supports the development of a well-validated community assessment tool, a “community play index” that can measure the policy, program or environmental barriers in communities to youth participating in physical activity. This Index will be used by communities to assess their own unique opportunities for kids to get physical activity and to identify the gaps that exist in providing the spaces and places for kids to play. In addition, the legislation assists coalitions to use the “community play index” to craft plans to promote physical activity and wellness in communities.

We urge your support for the PLAY Every Day Act and we look forward to working with your offices as this bill progresses towards enactment. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance
America on the Move
American Association for Health Education
American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation
American Beverage Association
American Council for Fitness and Nutrition
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
Campfire USA

CardioVision2020
Children's National Medical Center
Community Health Net
Dr. Wes Alles, Director, Stanford Health Improvement Program
Erie Center on Health and Aging
Erie County Department of Health
Erie County Diabetes Association
Executive Board of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association
General Mills
Girl Scouts of the USA
Grocery Manufacturers/Food Products Association
International Health Racquet and Sportsclub Association
Institute for America's Health
KaBOOM!
Kellogg Company
Landscape Structures Inc.
Leadership & Renewal Outfitters
League of American Bicyclist
National Association for Girls and Women in Sport
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Athletic Trainer's Association
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Collaboration for Youth
National Dance Association
National Human Services Assembly
National Recreation and Park Association
Nike
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Industry Foundation
Partners for a Healthy Nevada
PE4life
PepsiCo
PlayCore
Playworld Systems
Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders (RID)
Smoothie King
Trust for America's Health
United States Tennis Association
Women's Sports Foundation
YMCA of the USA