

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-5051

January 4, 2013

Mr. Allan Selig
Commissioner
Major League Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10167

Dear Mr. Selig:

On December 12, 2012, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing about the dangers of human growth hormone and other performance enhancing drugs (PEDs), especially to young athletes. The hearing was part of the Committee's work to ensure that the various drug testing programs in professional sports are adequate to detect and deter the use of all performance enhancing drugs, including HGH. The implementation of robust PED testing programs will protect the integrity of professional sports as well as player health and safety. Most importantly, such testing sends a message to young athletes that performance-enhancing drugs of all kinds are not tolerated at the highest levels of professional sports.

Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association have implemented important measures to improve testing for PEDs. As a result of the latest collective bargaining agreement, during spring training for the 2012 season, MLB became the first major professional sport to test for HGH. Though the current CBA limits testing to the off-season and spring training, recent reports suggest that discussions are underway to expand the current program to include in-season and year-round HGH testing.¹ Media reports have also indicated that MLB is considering additional changes to the testing program, including the expanded use of carbon isotope ratio (CIR) testing for improved detection of synthetic testosterone.²

The MLB and its players appear poised to lead the effort to ensure that PEDs do not taint competition. Vigilance, however, remains important. In the last reporting year, MLB

¹ Mason Levinson, *Baseball May Begin Year-Round HGH Blood Tests, Union Says*, BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK, Nov. 29, 2012.

² *Id.*

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administered 5,136 tests for banned substances, including 1,811 tests for HGH. Eighteen players tested positive, the second-highest number since the league began reporting in 2007.³

So that we may better understand the state of PED testing in Major League Baseball, we invite you to meet with the Committee to discuss the effectiveness of the current testing program and the possibility that it will be expanded. Please contact Jonathan Skladany of the Committee's majority staff at (202) 225-5074 or Donald Sherman of the minority staff at (202) 225-5051 to make the necessary arrangements. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.



Darrell Issa
Chairman

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

³ *Id.*