



THE
EFRAIN ANTHONY MARRERO
FOUNDATION

FIGHTING
AGAINST
STEROIDS
TOGETHER



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January 8, 2008

Honorable Congressman Henry Waxman,

The eyes of the world were riveted on Barry Bonds as he broke one of the most sacred records in the sports world – Hank Aaron’s home run record. How ironic that while he was closing in on that coveted mark he was also under investigation for using steroids to achieve his baseball success. Hundreds of thousands of young athletes in this country are watching how this drama plays out – will Barry Bonds go down in history as a true sports hero or be dismissed as a cheater? Make no mistake -- the answer to that question will affect how our children approach their own athletic endeavors.

Did Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens or any other elite athlete use steroids? That is the question your hearings have to answer. I can tell you, however, that my nineteen year-old son Efrain believed they did. Efrain, a promising college athlete, confessed to steroid abuse in the fall of 2004 because of the devastating side effects he was experiencing. When asked what led him to use steroids he replied, “Barry Bonds and Mark McGuire did it!” Three and half weeks after he quit using steroids “cold turkey” my son took his own life – a victim of the deep depression that accompanies withdrawal from these drugs. The sight of our son lying lifeless in our home is forever seared into our soul, and we can’t help wondering how many other families risk experiencing the same horrifying tragedy as their youngsters turn to steroids following the footsteps of their sports heroes.

So, we are at a defining moment in sports history -- your findings and recommendations to Commissioner Selig and America concerning steroid abuse by Bonds and others will shape how the sports world treats athletic achievements gained through unfair use of performance enhancing methods. Now is the time to take a stand – are we going to condemn cheating or celebrate it? Rest assured our young athletes will get the message either way. You are a highly respected, influential leader with a unique opportunity to chart the path for the future of sports in our country – show our children the right way!

Simple, honest accountability is all we’re asking for. If your investigation discovers Barry Bonds, or any other player, has abused steroids during their career we would expect meaningful consequences to follow. Specifically, any and all records achieved by offending athletes should be voided, and the players should be stripped of all awards such as “Gold Glove Awards,” “Cy Young Awards,” “Most Valuable Player,” etc. Additionally the offending players should be permanently banned from “Hall of Fame” consideration. Players found to have achieved success through use of steroids should be ostracized, serving as clear examples to young athletes that cheaters are not worthy of recognition, respect and admiration.



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I'm sure Hank Aaron wouldn't mind his record falling to a truly gifted player who achieved greatness with natural ability. But, what a slap in the face for Hank's legacy if we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of a lesser athlete who was reportedly only able to eclipse the record by "juicing!" These days, as we watched Barry Bonds break Hank Aaron's record, our family reflects less on the record and more on the tremendous negative influence this man and all these athletes had on our son. No family should have to endure the anguish we've suffered – but tens of thousands of youngsters are at risk. For them we ask you to dig deep – find the unvarnished truth and report it fairly. It's been said that all it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing – you're a wise and courageous leader in America, and it's time to shine the light of day on this problem. Our foundation stands ready to help you in any way we can.

Thank you!

Very Respectfully Yours,

Frank and Brenda Marrero
Parents of Efrain A Marrero
The Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation
Fighting Against Steroids Together