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September 26, 2018

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner:

On behalf of the American Conservative Union (ACU) and our membership around the country, we write in advance of Thursday's hearing, **Post-PASPA: An Examination of Sports Betting in America**.

On May 14 the United States Supreme Court (in a 6-3 decision) threw out the **Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act**, which became law in 1992, saying that the law was unconstitutional on the grounds that it violated state's rights. Now, Congress is seeking a way forward on how best to deal with the issue of sports betting. ACU would like for Members of Congress to take into account the important ruling by the Supreme Court, and allow states to make their own decision when it comes to this issue. Some states have already passed legislation and others are looking to do the same. They should be allowed to work within their own legislatures and residents and decide what is best for their state.

Months before the SCOTUS decision on PASPA, ACU Executive Director Daniel Schneider said, **"The limited role of the Federal government is to defend Life, Liberty and Property; all other powers are specifically reserved to the States and the People. ACU fights for the full spectrum of conservative policies, but the Constitution will always guide us when those policies bump up against each other."** We stand by this view and believe that Congress can gain a great deal of information from hearings, but it is important that hearings don't set in motion action by Congress that would run counter to the decision of the Supreme Court allowing for states to make their own decision.

Each year ACU holds the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), the largest annual gathering of conservatives around the world. In February of 2018, before the SCOTUS ruling on PASPA, we asked our attendees about this issue. When asked who would be better suited to handle the issue of sports betting, 90% of participants said, **"Sports betting should be an issue decided by states, not the federal government."**

While we appreciate the work the subcommittee is undertaking and feel it is important to hear the perspective of individuals with expertise in this area, we hope that Members of Congress look to what the courts have said on this issue and allow states to be the arbiters on the question of sports betting.

Sincerely,

Michi Iljazi
Director of Government Affairs

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