



## Major County Sheriffs of America

**Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard**

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The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner  
Chairman, House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations  
“Post – PASPA: An Examination of Sports Betting in America”

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner,

I write to you today as Vice President in charge of Government Affairs for the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). The MCSA is an association of elected Sheriffs representing the nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more. Collectively, we provide public safety services to over 100 million residents and have a unique understanding of criminal enterprises.

The 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) prohibited full-fledged sports betting outside of Nevada and it should come as no surprise that it failed miserably and enabled illegal sports gambling to grow to a \$150 billion-a-year industry. It's important to remember that illegal sports betting does not stand alone; it supports a whole host of illegal activities, from money laundering and racketeering, to extortion and drug trafficking. By bolstering crime, this cycle of illicit sports betting also drains local law enforcement resources.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court ruled to overturn PASPA and bring sports gambling out of the shadows. Gaming is currently legal in 40 states and this transparent, well-regulated industry works hand-in-glove with law enforcement and regulators. With the advent of legal sports gambling, it's paramount the federal government respect state sovereignty and allow states to determine their own sports betting laws.

Some have suggested integrity fees on all bets placed to safeguard the market however, this proposal would assuredly take state and local government revenue and divert it to an already highly profitable for-profit business. As a former state legislator, a sheriff, and a citizen in a state with gaming and professional sports teams, this type of tax is neither practical nor appropriate. SCOTUS lifted the handcuffs off the states to empower local law enforcement with tools to maintain a safer environment, and it is incumbent upon state legislators to enact sound policy that will protect consumers and enhance the safety of our communities.

Very Respectfully,

Michael J. Bouchard, Sheriff, Oakland County (MI)  
Vice President – Government Affairs, Major County Sheriffs of America