# SHATTERING THE MYTHS OF THE DRUG CULTURE—CELEBRITY ROLE MODELS JUST SAY NO

## HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# SHATTERING THE MYTHS OF THE DRUG CULTURE—CELEBRITY ROLE MODELS JUST SAY NO

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1998,**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT,
*Washington, DC.*

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:05 p.m., in room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. J. Dennis Hastert (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Hastert, Gingrich, Souder, Barr, Barrett, and Tierney.

Staff present: Robert B. Charles, staff director and chief counsel; Margaret Hemenway, professional staff member; Amy S. Davenport, clerk; and Michael Yeager, minority counsel.

Mr. HASTERT. This hearing of the Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice will come to order. I want to say to everyone good afternoon, and certainly, thank you for being here today.

Sports have always been a hallmark of America because sports teach—beyond competitiveness and team work—that how you play the game is what matters. Our greatest sports heroes today are those who exemplify strong moral character—both on and off the field. In a similar fashion, some of our most admired actors and celebrities have been those who we believed were not only talented at their profession—but whose personal accomplishments often rivaled their professional triumphs.

I want to say that certainly, we led an effort in this subcommittee this week to urge the NBA to jump on board, and lead with good deeds, and become drug-free by adopting drug testing. Speaker Gingrich, myself, and many other Members of Congress believe these talented athletes in the NBA are role models, and with that status comes a responsibility to exercise wise judgment, be good citizens, and lead by example.

I certainly hope this hearing will serve to remind us that athletes and celebrities are role models for children and teenagers, and that as role models, they must be mindful of the impact of their public and private conduct.

Sadly, we are a Nation that is again, awash in plentiful, cheap drugs, with records numbers of students experimenting at even younger ages. We need to put a stop to it. We need to change that

behavior. As a former coach and athlete, I certainly know the rigors of training. I know what it is to win and I know what it is to lose. I certainly understand that athletes in the limelight, particularly in the pro-ranks, are under enormous pressure and stress. Drugs can become a powerful enticement, but they also damage bodies, they wreck minds, and they put at risk people's public image. Athletes and celebrities are heroes to kids and we believe they should be drug-free. Everyone has a responsibility in the war on the drugs—parents, employers, teachers, coaches, athletes and actors.

As chairman of this subcommittee and the Speaker's Drug-Free America Task Force, I pledge that we will fight to deter demand, stop supply and increase accountability. We are in this for the long haul, and we are in this to win.

I also want to say that Congressman J.C. Watts will be introducing a resolution that promotes drug-free athletes both on and off the field and that Congressman Jim Ryun and Congressman Jim Bunning are serving as original co-sponsors.

With that, I'd now like to recognize my good friend, a Congressman from Wisconsin, Tom Barrett, for his opening statement. Mr. Barrett.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and welcome to Sports Illustrated, live. We've got some great athletes here today and some other figures who are important in the world of entertainment and education, law enforcement, and each and everyone of them is a leader in our fight against drugs.

General McCaffrey, who heads the office that oversees this issue, has often pointed that young people who steer clear of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco before they turn 18, are likely to avoid drug problems over the entire course of their lives. The question is: How do we help them along the way? And how do we help them to get to 18?

We have an ongoing media campaign, organized by the Office of National Drug Policy, to change attitudes about drugs. The point of that campaign is to counteract the barrage of messages that we take in from the popular media that glamorize drug use or make it seem normal. We have witnesses today who can talk about the D.A.R.E. program which brings police officers into schools to teach youngsters how to resist drugs and gangs. We just have to send out the word, in as many ways as possible, that drugs ruin lives, that drugs kill.

Len Bias' death, 10 years ago, sent out that message in a powerful way. He was an extraordinary athlete, a model of health and unlimited potential, who was stopped dead in his tracks by cocaine. The same is true of many popular figures who died before their time—River Phoenix, Chris Farley, John Belushi.

But there's a need for positive role models in public life, people who got to where they are precisely because they kept away from drugs. Many of our witnesses today who are that kind of role model, and I look forward to hearing how they and others, both in public and in everyday life, can send the right message and make a difference.

And speaking as someone who got cut from many athletic teams, I think it's important that we have the people who are the stars

and really succeeded to come forth and bring the message that's so important for the young people to hear.

Thank you for being here today.

Mr. HASTERT. I'd like to welcome two Members of Congress who demonstrated not only the athletic prowess but also their commitment to public service and leading by example. I'd also ask the Speaker who, I think, right now is talking to a few young people, if he would like to come forward and offer his statement?

So, without any further ado, I'd like to introduce the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich—as soon as he gets through the crowd here. [Laughter.]

Speaker of the House.

**STATEMENT OF HON. NEWT GINGRICH, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

Mr. GINGRICH. Well, let me thank Mr. Hastert, who introduced me and thank you very much for letting me come over here. Also, I thank my two colleagues for letting me take a moment or two.

I want to thank Sugar Ray Leonard and Steve Fitzhugh for coming today and for helping us.

I want to thank all of the young people who are here in their t-shirts because I think it's very important—guys like me who are gray-haired and 55-years-old, we're not going to affect your friends. We're out of it. It's unimaginable that our voice matters. But if you have the courage in your school and your neighborhood, with your friends, and if you have the courage, particularly, with younger children who look up to you, we found that as a general rule, children about 3 years younger, look up and think that you're a big person. You may think somebody else is a big person, think about who you look up to.

I think when you wear those shirts and when you go back home and talk about the importance of not being involved with drugs, I think you do make a big impact and I want to thank every single young person who is here. I apologize if they made you sit on the floor, but I'm really delighted that you're here.

You should make sure they get brought by to see my dinosaur. I have a tyrannosaurs-rex skull over at the office. So, if you would like to come over after you're done here, we'll try to arrange for you to come through and see it, OK? It's in the Capitol. I also have the best view in the city on the porch there. So, we'll make sure you all get to go out and maybe get a picture on the porch. All right?

Mr. WATTS. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. GINGRICH. Yes, we would yield.

Mr. WATTS. I don't have a dinosaur in my office, but I do have Oklahoma peanuts and you all are welcomed to them. [Laughter.]

Mr. GINGRICH. You know, it pains a Georgian to have that reference made when I yield to you. [Laughter.]

But, I'm not going to get into a Georgia peanut-Oklahoma peanut competition. So, if you would, stop by Mr. Watt's office, take all of his peanuts and then come on over. [Laughter.]

But I do appreciate you being here because you're a key part of what we're all about. You also are helping make a point about how in the long-run, we're really going to win the war on drugs, which

is by having younger people decide that they want to be drug-free, they want to be healthy. That's why I think having sports stars is very, very important.

Sports stars are celebrities. They are community leaders. They are people who are recognized by people all over the country. We just had this experience the other night when the Bulls won the NBA. [Applause.]

Because when you think about it, I don't want to get in some contest now, about who likes which team even if I was pulling for Michael Jordan and Chicago personally. And he is from Illinois; so, he obviously, is already biased.

Think about the number of people who watch. Think about the level of intensity with which young people look up to those role models. I think every citizen realizes that we have a problem because in the last 5 years, drug use has gone up. There are more young people today using drugs than there were 5 years ago. One of the reasons I think, is that we've grown tolerant of people who use drugs and we've grown tolerant of setting a standard of which drug use was not decisive as something that we reacted against.

I've co-signed the letter encouraging the professional sports leagues to take seriously testing programs, and to take seriously setting the right standard and setting the right tone. And let me also say, for the news media that's here, we recognize strongly that an anti-drug program should also have as a component of it, an anti-teen smoking program. And despite the collapse of the anti-smoking bill in the Senate, we will have an anti-teen smoking bill in the House, of which I think, we will pass and which will be targeted trying to convince young people to lead healthier lives and not to run the risks that are involved by smoking.

Similarly, young people should know when they turn on their television, or they go to a sports stadium or an arena, that the star they're watching is somebody who is a good citizen and who is also drug-free. I think it's a fair slot because to be a sports celebrity in America is a remarkably profitable business. We provide a variety of ways in which people become national and world figures. They make tremendous amounts of money. The leagues make a lot of money. There are very well-paid executives because of television contracts, because of tax-free municipal bonds that build stadiums and build arenas, because of community commitment, and I think it's fair for the community to say back, if we're going to create these conditions, if we're going to support the process by which you become wealthy, then you have an obligation to be involved.

It was very disturbing when the New York Times reported recently that, based on their reports, they believed as many as 60 to 70 percent of the NBA players may be using marijuana. Now, I don't know if that's accurate, but I know that it's something the NBA should be very, very concerned about. And, I believe that there should be testing.

I particularly praise the effort already underway in the NFL, for example, where all players are tested annually; where they do have sanctions if they are tested. We have suggested that they have one additional condition and that is, if you do test positive, that you have to name the dealer before you're allowed back on the field or

back in the arena, because that would begin to set up a sanction and frankly, make it pretty scary for dealers to be involved.

But I think we should say, "this is illegal, this is not about opinion, it's not about social standing, it's not about what you like to do for recreational, it is against the law in the United States." And I don't think it's too much to ask professional sports to be committed to obeying the law and to ask professional sports to ask their participants to be committed to obeying the law.

So, I want to commend the leadership that Chairman Hastert has shown in developing these approaches. I think it is very important that we focus on the issue of athletics. Again, I want to go back because I don't think this is an unfair trade.

We pass billions of dollars in municipal bonds that are tax-free in order to build stadiums. We have all sorts of concessions that involve televisions. We have tax-deductible advertising. We have all sorts of ways in which Government has subsidized and encouraged the development of an industry which is nationwide and worldwide. And all we're asking of people who become famous, and very often rich, is that they be good citizens and good stewards, and that they insist on belonging to a league that sets the right standard.

I hope that every professional sports league will set the right standard. I would urge the players and the commissioners, come out and talk to these young people wearing these D.A.R.E. t-shirts. Go out and talk to young people in any town in this country. Listen to how much they look up to those stars and ask yourself, isn't it fair for us to ask those stars to be proudly drug-free, to be the right role models and isn't it fair to protect the court, and protect the field, and protect the rink from people who are not willing to be drug-free?

I thank you very, very much for allowing me to be here. [Applause.]

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to have two distinguished Congressmen and in their past lives, very distinguished athletes.

I would like to introduce Congressman J.C. Watts, from Oklahoma and the Congressman Jim Ryun, from Kansas to testify here today.

Congressman Watts, please proceed with your opening.

## STATEMENTS OF HON. J.C. WATTS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA; AND HON. JIM RYUN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF KANSAS

Mr. WATTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank, as well, Steve Fitzhugh and Sugar Ray Leonard for being with us this afternoon.

I recall, Mr. Chairman, back in the 1970's when I was in Oklahoma I saw a fight at Lloyd Noble Center on campus, the second fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. And, being the big Sugar Ray Leonard fan that I was, I remember making a complete idiot of myself by standing in the chairs and screaming and yelling for Sugar Ray Leonard. Finally, I'm getting to meet him today and I am delighted and honored to meet him.

I also commend the D.A.R.E. programs as we go back to our respective States on weekends, we see the D.A.R.E. signs on the police cars and know the work they're doing, and schools and apartment complexes around the country, and I'm delighted that they could join us today. And as many other anti-drug programs around the country. I'm involved in the Fellowship Christian Athletes and the One Way to Play Drug-Free program that they're promoting in junior high and high schools around the country. And I commend them all for their efforts.

Mr. Chairman and Mr. Barrett, the ranking member, I commend you all for having this hearing today and helping to raise the conscious level hopefully, of America, through this hearing, raising the conscious level of America and especially American young people about the dangers of drugs.

Mr. Chairman, to whom much is given, much is expected and whether they want to be athletes or role models for so many young people and they have a special responsibility to set an example for children. This is part of their responsibility as public figures. Athletes have to accept the responsibility they have as civic leaders. That is why, I hope, major sports leagues like the NFL, the NBA, major league baseball, the National Hockey League, and the International Olympic Committee will send a much clearer message in the future that the use of illegal drugs is wrong and dangerous and will not be tolerated. I hope these sports leagues will seek to more severely punish those players who break the law by using drugs.

Whether or not athletes like to admit it, again, they are role models for our children. My children don't always listen to what I have to say as a father, but they hang on every word that star players like Michael Jordan or John Elway or Venus Williams say.

The NBA, currently, does not test players for marijuana use or automatically punish them for that use. How can it be that professional basketball players can use illegal drugs and not be automatically suspended for breaking the law? Also, during the 1998 winter olympics, a snowboarding athlete tested positive for marijuana but was allowed to keep his gold medal. This, I believe, sends a bad message to our children. Sports leagues need to clear up loopholes like this, otherwise, children will think sports leagues and athletes think using drugs is cool and acceptable.

Today, professional athletes like Cal Ripken, Jr., Troy Aikman, Lisa Leslie and Jackie Joyner-Kersee all have thousands of young men and women who look up to them for cues on how to conduct themselves. If these four particular athletes can set a great example for our children and avoid using illegal drugs, so can other athletes.

Athletes must respect the times in which we live today. Drug use is on the rise. Marijuana is popular. The use of some very potent forms of heroin is on the rise. Our children are playing games with their lives by using drugs. High-profile athletes who get caught using drugs are sending children a message, intentionally or not, that using drugs is OK. This is unacceptable. Sports leagues must hold athletes accountable for their lack of judgment. While the ultimate responsibility for teaching children right from wrong lies with parents, there is no question celebrities influence children just as much as parents do. Therefore, athletes have a responsibility to set

a good example for our children. That example includes avoiding the use of illegal drugs.

Sports leagues should back up their rhetoric with action, and send a clear message to children that drug use is wrong. They will get that message loud and clear when they see, for example, that an all-star basketball player, football player, baseball or whatever sport with the $70 million contract has been suspended for a year without pay because he used illegal drugs. When children see that type of example being set, they will understand that using drugs is a serious mistake to be avoided. Children will also understand the importance of making good decisions and exercising self-control.

We must also recognize, Mr. Chairman, that while sports leagues can make rules, players have to abide by them and agree to them in their collective bargaining agreements. I hope professional athletes are willing to work with sports leagues to craft rules which are very tough and punitive to those athletes who set a bad examples for our children, but rules that are fair and judicious. If both players and sport owners approach this process in good faith, good rules can be established and society can benefit from this cooperation.

We have a good chance of significantly reducing the use of illegal drugs in America if sports leagues and athletes will stand up and be counted, and send a strong message to our children that only foolish people use drugs. The best way to send that message is lead by example.

And, Mr. Chairman, as I close I say that, there is a difference, I believe, America today is sending a clarion call for heroes and there is a real difference between heroes and celebrities. Celebrities are known for being known, but heroes are known for their values and especially for their values and their principles when it comes to drug use.

And I appreciate again, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Barrett you all allowing me to be here today and be a part of this hearing.

[The prepared statement of Hon. J.C. Watts follows:]

J.C. WATTS, JR.
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

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## Statement by Congressman J.C. Watts of Oklahoma in Support of Stricter Rules Against Drug Abuse in Professional and Olympic Sports

Given before the House Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice,
Congressman J. Dennis Hastert, Chairman
June 17, 1998.

Mr. Chairman, the Scriptures tell us, "To whom much is given, much is expected." Since athletes are role models for so many youth, they have a special responsibility to set a good example for children. This is part of their responsibility as public figures. Athletes have to accept the responsibility they have as civic leaders. That is why I hope major sports leagues like the NFL, NBA, Major League Baseball, the NHL and the International Olympic Committee will send a much clearer message in the future that the use of illegal drugs is wrong and dangerous. I hope these sports leagues will seek to more severely punish those players who break the law.

Whether or not athletes like to admit it, they are role models for our children. My children don't always listen to what I have to say as their father, but they hang on to every word star players like Kobe Bryant, Venus Williams, or Barry Sanders say.

The National Basketball Association currently does not test players for marijuana use or automatically punish them for that use. How can it be that professional basketball players can use illegal drugs and not be automatically suspended for breaking the law? Also, during the 1998 Winter Olympics, a snowboarding athlete tested positive for marijuana but was allowed to keep his gold medal. This, too, sends a bad message to our children. Sports leagues need to clear up loopholes like this; otherwise, children will think that sports leagues and athletes think using drugs is cool and acceptable.

Today, professional athletes like Cal Ripken, Jr., Troy Aikman, Lisa Leslie and Jackie Joyner-Kersee all have thousands of young men and women who look up to them for cues on how to behave. If these four particular athletes can set a great example for our children and avoid using illegal drugs, so can other athletes.

If athletes aren't willing to be good role models, they should not be allowed to play in sports. Players must respect the times in which we live in today. Drug use is on the rise. Marijuana is popular. The use of some very potent forms of heroin is on the rise. Our children are playing games with their lives by using drugs. High-profile athletes who get caught using drugs, like Chris Webber, are sending children a message, intentionally or not, that using drugs is cool. This is unacceptable.

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We have a good chance at significantly reducing the use of illegal drugs in America if sports leagues and athletes will stand up and be counted, and send a strong message to our children that only fools use drugs. The best way to send that message is to lead by example.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, J.C.

And for you young folks, you know J.C. Watts is certainly an all-American quarterback on a national championship team and now is a Member of Congress.

The next speaker is no less credible, the first high schooler to run a 4-minute mile, and a three-time olympian. It's my pleasure to introduce Mr. Jim Ryun. Jim.

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today and speak.

I want to offer a bit of encouragement to Mr. Barrett, though. See, I was cut from an athletic team too; it was the baseball team; it was the church baseball team. So, you can see that I didn't have any great talents in that area. It eventually led me to become a runner. So, maybe you will have a second sports life. [Laughter.]

I also want to make mention of what took place just moments before this meeting convened, and that was as you saw, the various people that were on the panel walk by with these young children. If there was any doubt in anyone's mind as to the role of a role model, and how important it would be. It was very evident as they wanted to shake hands and have autographs. We do carry a major responsibility and it's just not the athletes, it's the parents as well. So, I do want to thank you for the opportunity to speak and to discuss how to teach children to resist the lure of drugs. As a father of four children, having been in three olympics, I know there is a great responsibility there to be a role model.

Before I turn my attention to the Drug-Free Professional and Olympic Athlete Responsibility Resolution, I want to state on the onset that athletes do not and should not have a monopoly on communicating to this Nation's young people the dangers of drugs and the alternatives of experimenting with drugs and as we've already pointed out the D.A.R.E. group that's here, the police officers that are accompanying them as sponsors, each one of them, as well as parents really remain a role model.

As a parent, we bear that burden for setting the rules for our children and for them to follow. When it comes to drug-use, parents must put that well-being of their children first. With this in mind, there's no excuse for parents not to lay down some sort of strict rules about drug use. And I'm going to offer three simple guidelines that I think are very helpful to parents to enforce those rules.

First of all, be very specific. Explain the reason for those rules and don't do it just once. Say it once, say it again, and say it one more time because as they go through different stages of their lives, they will need that constant reinforcement.

Second, be consistent. Make it very clear to your child that a no-drug use rule will remain in effect. It's there all the time and it's the same all the time. Be consistent.

The third point is to be reasonable. Don't add new consequences that have not been discussed before, if you're going to change the rules. So, be very consistent, be specific, and be reasonable.

As parents know all too well, this is not the only part of their job. We must invest the necessary time, and that's an important element, time with our children to demonstrate to them our moral opposition to the use of drugs. Also, we must be prepared to enforce those penalties when a child breaks those rules.

For the war on drugs to be successful, however, we have no choice but to enlist additional soldiers for the fight because parents cannot be with their children every step. Our children need to have additional role models to turn to, and that's what were discussing today. This is where I feel an athlete can play a major role.

Athletes today are some of the most prominent, influential role models for America's youth. Their God-given athletic abilities extend far beyond the sporting arena into the daily lives of America's young people. Because athletes draw so much public attention to the way they prepare their bodies for high-level performance, they publicly must maintain, I believe, a zero tolerance for drugs.

That is why I'm pleased to be a sponsor and be here today as an original co-sponsor of the Drug-Free Professional and Olympic Athlete Responsibility Resolution. This resolution will call for professional sports organizations, some of which has been discussed and the International Olympic Committee—the OIC—to denounce, in no uncertain terms, all illegal use of drugs. Going one step further, it will ensure proper penalties will be issued to drug-abusing athletes. The athletes who abuse drugs would be placed in a drug treatment program to help them break that cycle of dependency.

Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more professional athletes use drugs, we have seen and heard some accounts of that already. Time and time again, we pick up the newspaper or turn to ESPN and discover that yet another professional athlete, a role model if you will, has been arrested for possessing drugs.

To make matters worse, professional sports organizations treat this epidemic with kid gloves. For example, although banned under criminal laws, marijuana is not included in the NBA policy that my colleague just mentioned. It is not an illegal substance. Even during the winter olympics, the use of marijuana is simply winked at. It really wasn't dealt with sufficiently. We need to have strong penalties and a strong hand to show that we are opposed to this use.

We must seize the opportunity to steer our children away from the dangers of drugs and this resolution is good step in that direction. The need for this country's young people to have role models in the war on drugs has now become even greater. Since 1991, the number of 8th graders using marijuana has increased by over 200 percent and half of all high schoolers have used or are using illegal drugs.

It bears worth repeating, once again, as responsible members of society, it is our duty to recognize the importance of role models in the lives of today's youth, especially considering how they're bombarded with a lot of social pressures that accompany those drug uses.

It is through exposure to competent, courageous, and moral individuals that children will develop the skills needed to promote their healthy non-dependency upon drugs. I challenge everyone here in this room to reach out to our country's youth and to take advantage of giving them the ability to make a difference in the life of America's children.

Children need to see in their role models, the lesson we as parents and athletes and educators try to teach them daily—all actions have consequences. Until professional sports leagues and the International Olympic Committee have a zero tolerance for drugs,

we as a Nation cannot expect to win the war on drugs. We must grasp every opportunity we have to steer children away from the dangers of drugs and take a productive, reasonable, and responsible life.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity, and when we come back afterwards, I'd be happy to respond to any questions.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Jim Ryun follows:]

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**Statement by Rep. Jim Ryun (KS-2)**
**House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice**
**Thursday, June 18, 1998, 2154 Rayburn 1:00 p.m.**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss how to teach children to resist the lure of drugs. As a father of four and a three-time Olympian, I know all too well the responsibilities that are associated with being a role model.

Before I turn my attention to the Drug-Free Professional and Olympic Athlete Responsibility Resolution, I want to state at the onset that athletes do not and should not have a monopoly on communicating to this nation's young people the dangers of drugs and alternatives to experimenting with drugs.

As parents, we bear the burden for setting the rules for our children to follow. When it comes to drug use, parents must put the well being of their child first. With this in mind, there's no excuse for parents not to lay down strict rules against drug use.

Also, three simple guidelines will help parents enforce their rules:

- First, be specific. Explain the reasons for the rules.
- Second, be consistent. Make it clear to your child that a no-drug-use rule remains the same at all times.
- Finally, be reasonable. Don't add new consequences that have not been discussed before the rule was broken.

As parents know all too well, this is only a part of our job. We must invest the necessary time with our children to demonstrate to them our moral opposition to drug use. Also, we must be prepared to enforce penalties when a child breaks the rules.

For the "War on Drugs" to be successful, however, we have no choice but to enlist additional soldiers for the fight. Because parents cannot be with their children at every step, our children need to have additional role models to turn to. This is where I feel athletes come into play.

Athletes today are some of the most prominent and influential role models for America's youth. Their God-given athletic abilities extend far beyond the sporting arena and into the daily lives of America's young people. Because athletes draw so much public attention to the way they prepare their bodies for high-level performance, they publicly must mention a zero tolerance for drugs.

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That is why I am so pleased to be here today as an original co-sponsor of the Drug-Free Professional and Olympic Athlete Responsibility Resolution. This resolution would call for professional sports organizations and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to denounce, in no uncertain terms, all illegal drug use. Going one step further, it would ensure that proper penalties be issued to drug abusing athletes. Finally, athletes who abuse drugs would be placed in a drug treatment program to help them break the cycle of dependency.

Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more professional athletes using drugs. Time and time again, we pick up a newspaper or tune into ESPN and discover that yet another professional athlete has been arrested for possessing drugs.

To make matters worse, professional sports organizations treat this epidemic with kid gloves. For example, although banned under criminal laws, marijuana is not included in the NBA's drug policy as an illegal substance. Even in the recent Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, the use of marijuana was simply winked at.

We must seize the opportunity to steer children away from the dangers of drugs. This resolution is a good step in the right direction.

The need for this country's youngsters to have role models in the "War on Drugs" has never been greater.

- Since 1991, the number of 8th graders using marijuana has increased by more than 200 percent and half of all high school students have used, or are using, illegal drugs.

It bears repeating once again as responsible members of society, it is our duty to recognize the importance of role models in the lives of today's youth -- especially considering how bombarded they are with the social pressures that accompany drugs.

It is through exposure to competent, courageous, and moral individuals that children will develop the skills needed to promote their healthy development. I challenge everyone here in this room to reach out to our country's youth and take full advantage of the ability we have to make a difference in the lives of America's future.

Children need to see in their role models the lessons we as parents and educators try to teach them daily —all actions have consequences. Until professional sports leagues and the International Olympic Committee have a zero tolerance for drugs, we as a nation can't expect to win the War on Drugs.

We must grasp every opportunity we have to steer children away from the dangers of drugs and toward a productive and resourceful life.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, gentlemen, and thank you for being here.

I'm going to recess the committee for about a couple minutes. We have to go make a vote. I'll be back shortly. Thank you very much.

[Recess.]

Mr. HASTERT. If the subcommittee would now come to order, at this time, I'd like to welcome our second panel.

I would like to introduce the person who is making his way to the table at this time, I'm greatly honored to have with us today Sugar Ray Leonard. Sugar Ray is a man who is a household name. Although Sugar Ray needs no introduction, I will mention that he is a world-renowned boxing champion. If I remember it right, I think, five different championships and different fighter and weight classes—maybe multiple.

But, anyway, aside from his stellar career, he formed the Sugar Ray Leonard Youth Foundation in 1996 which has become one of the foremost organizations that has as its goals educating children about the dangers of drugs.

It is also a pleasure this afternoon to introduce a prominent D.A.R.E. officer from Chicago, Sergeant Sid Kelly. I also want to thank D.A.R.E. for all the D.A.R.E. students that are present today from the area including Prince George's County, Baltimore, Manassas Park, and Loudon County.

We also welcome Dr. Mark Gold, from the neuroscience and psychiatry department at the University of Florida. Dr. Gold is a prominent name in the academic community associated with research on drug issues.

Steve Fitzhugh is another star athlete, formerly with the Denver Broncos. Steve is now with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes where he serves as a Washington, DC director. He is also founder and head of PowerMoves, a national youth organization which uses the power of athletics, academics, and the arts to encourage young people for successful careers. Steve has been referred to as the "chaplain to the pros" because of his inspiration talks to the Broncos and the Washington Redskins and the New York Giants and the Detroit Lions.

I would also like to welcome Bill Ellis, division vice president with K–Mart's Kids' Race Against Drugs program. K–Mart's dedication to this fight is commendable and we are very pleased to have you here today.

And finally, I am pleased that our youngest witness, Mr. Bryton McClure, can be with us here from the popular television program, "Family Matters." I understand that Bryton's father is in the audience and thank him for coming today to this hearing.

We look forward to hearing from each of you and we hope that you'll provide us with new ideas about how to teach young people to resist illegal drugs and the pitfalls and personal tragedies that befall those who fall prey to the powerful temptation of illicit narcotics.

There's a rule of our committee that we swear-in all of our witnesses. I'd ask you please, all to stand and raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. HASTERT. Let the record show that the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

I'm going to ask and I understand that Mr. Leonard has a plane that he's got to catch, so I'm going to ask that, Mr. Leonard, if you'll please proceed with a brief summary of your testimony and we'll open the questions to you right away and let you get going. Thank you very much.

**STATEMENTS OF SUGAR RAY LEONARD, WORLD-RENOWNED BOXING CHAMPION; SERGEANT SID KELLY, D.A.R.E. OFFICER FROM CHICAGO; DR. MARK GOLD, NEUROSCIENCE AND PSYCHIATRY DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; STEVE FITZHUGH, FORMERLY WITH THE DENVER BRONCOS; BILL ELLIS, DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT, K-MART'S KIDS' RACE AGAINST DRUGS PROGRAM; AND BRYTON MCCLURE, TELEVISION PROGRAM "FAMILY MATTERS"**

Mr. LEONARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Barrett, and members of the subcommittee. It is, indeed, an honor to be here today to address an issue that I know is of great importance to all of us—drug abuse and our Nation's youth.

How often have you heard or read a story about a youth who has fallen victim to drugs or violence and you think to yourself, "that kid had a choice," or "he made the wrong choice, and could have made the right one." And from a distance, that's an easy assumption for us to make. Well, I want you to know that for the thousands of kids who are exposed to drugs and violence from a young age, they truly don't believe that they have a choice.

While there are many reasons for it, the most common among them is a simple one—the lack of a strong voice, a moral guide to look up to, someone to simply say, "you're OK, I love you." But instead, what they see is the guy on the street corner who says, "you want to get high?" "You want to make some fast money, a nice ride, be a part of something?" Which, when translated, it really means, "do you want to take a fast ride down a short, dangerous street?"

What might happen if, on that same street corner, stood somebody else—a mentor—and that mentor walked to that same kid and said, "hey, want to take advantage of life?" "You want to be somebody that counts?" "Do you want to make a difference? I can't get you fast money, but hang with me and I'll teach you how money works. Let's take a long walk down a longer, but safer street." That mentor standing on that same street corner, that is D.A.R.E. And it's because of D.A.R.E. that I formed the Sugar Ray Leonard Youth Foundation.

Working together, we hope to give every child we can reach the same opportunities many of us had as kids, through education and support, that these kids need so bad to resist drugs. D.A.R.E. can, quite literally, change the face of that puzzle known as America's future. A mentor for every needy kid—wouldn't that be great? Think of the possibilities.

I here today as a testament to the power of a mentor, support and belief in one's self. I was blessed with a few things many of these kids are lacking today. I had close-knit support. I had a mother, a father, brothers and sisters, but I lacked confidence. I felt inferior, like a lot of these kids feel today. I guess you could say I was afraid. I was too short for basketball, too small for foot-

ball, and not really comfortable with team sports, in general. It just seemed easier for me to do it by myself, and boxing filled that need.

Although I must say, the first time I competed in boxing gloves, those gloves were really big. In fact, it was an amateur boy's club. And I remember, I got hit so hard the very first time that I cried and I quit the very next day, so technically speaking, I've had a long history of retiring and coming back and those kinds of things. [Laughter.]

But I knew then, that boxing was the right outlet for me. I had people who believed in me and I had just enough skills to know that I could compete, and that's all I needed. So, the next time I put the gloves on, things were different. I was very focused. I had developed an intense need to be the best. I remember early on someone asking me if I wanted to become champion. I said, "yes, but I want to be special." And that's what's carried me so far—to be different.

I was so fortunate to have developed an inner strength. Now, I know every kid does not have that instinctly; some are born with it, most champions are not. It's something that is learned. And that's where the D.A.R.E. program and the Sugar Ray Leonard Youth Foundation come in. We are the adopted mentors—the voice that tells a kid how drugs destroy the lives of so many; that he or she can become whatever they desire; that boundaries don't exist.

In fact, from the beginning when I meet a kid, I tell them, "be a leader and not a follower." "Believe in yourself because if you don't, no one else will."

You know, Mr. Chairman, we can spend all the money the Government has to fight the bad guys. But, you know what? If we can get to the potential buyers before the bad guys get to them, then the bad guys go out of business—supply and demand. We want the demand to disappear. This is precisely why D.A.R.E. begins at the kindergarten level where kids are the most impressionable, and continues through high school.

I've watched friends of mine succumb to drugs over the years and I'm sure we all know someone who has fallen victim. Through the 1960's and 1970's, drug and alcohol use among our Nation's youth increased tremendously. It wasn't until the mid-1980's that there was an actual decline in the usage among high school seniors. Coincidentally, that was the same time the D.A.R.E. program was created. The program and its message spread rapidly at the local level to schools throughout the country, where drug and alcohol usage among kids continues on the decline to this very day.

I want you to know that throughout my years in the ring, the long days of training and pushing myself to the very limit, my accomplishment as Olympic gold medal winner and all my professional titles—when all was said-and-done—my greatest satisfaction is knowing I can still use my motivational skills to impact and reach so many thousands of kids everyday. It is, indeed, my dream.

I am here today, because I know that various government-funded drug awareness programs have come and gone. They get lost in the shuffle or the juggling of other assistance or special interest groups. And, I am here to remind you that D.A.R.E. has been in existence in every corner of America for 15 years, and they are only getting stronger. A very tiny portion of their funding currently

comes from government sources. D.A.R.E. is a non-profit program that depends heavily upon the generosity of private individuals, celebrities, State and local government.

I've had the opportunity to see the D.A.R.E. officers in action, and it's a great joy. They not only work wonders in the classrooms, but on their own time as well. And the kids do respond. It's only human to respond to someone who teaches you to believe in yourself. And let's not forgot that, all of D.A.R.E.'s officers are police officers. So, for every relationship forged now, that's one less that might one day, end up in the rear seat of a patrol car.

D.A.R.E. has been hugely successful at the elementary school level and needs to continue that success at the middle and high school levels. Let the growth continue. It is about the future. Could it be any simpler? Yet, at the same time, more urgent?

Don't make these kids wait. They are surrounded by more drugs and violence than most of us could ever imagine. I wouldn't want to step into the ring with some of the opponents our kids are faced with every single day. They need the education, guidance, and the role models to get a real running start. My success in life was built through dedication, belief and action. I hope this committee will do the same by following through with funds and continued support for D.A.R.E.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, let's remember, our most valuable natural resources are our kids. Sir, our kids can't wait.

Thank you so much. [Applause.]

[The prepared statement of Mr. Leonard follows:]

GOOD MORNING, CHAIRMAN HASTERT, CONGRESSMAN BARRETT, AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE. IT'S AN HONOR TO STAND HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE THAT I KNOW IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US HERE TODAY - DRUG ABUSE AND OUR NATION'S YOUTH.

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HEARD OR READ A STORY ABOUT A YOUTH WHO HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO DRUGS OR VIOLENCE AND YOU THINK TO YOURSELF, "THAT KID HAD A CHOICE. HE MADE THE WRONG CHOICE. COULDA MADE THE RIGHT ONE." AND FROM A DISTANCE, THAT'S AN EASY ASSUMPTION FOR MANY OF US TO MAKE. WELL, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT FOR THE THOUSANDS OF KIDS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO DRUGS AND VIOLENCE FROM A YOUNG AGE, THEY TRULY DON'T BELIEVE THEY HAVE A CHOICE.

THINK ABOUT THAT. AND, WHILE THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR IT, THE MOST COMMON AMONG THEM IS A SIMPLE ONE -- THE LACK OF A STRONG VOICE, A MORAL GUIDE TO LOOK UP TO, SOMEONE TO SIMPLY PUT HIS OR HER ARM AROUND YOU AND TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL. WHAT THEY SEE IS THE MAN ON THE CORNER WHO SAYS, "HEY, WANNA GET HIGH?... WANNA MAKE SOME FAST MONEY?... GET YOU SOME SHOES,... A NICE RIDE? (sarcastically) WANNA BELONG? WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS, "WANNA TAKE A FAST RIDE DOWN A SHORT STREET?"

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF, ON THAT SAME STREET CORNER, STOOD SOMEBODY ELSE -- A MENTOR. AND THAT MENTOR WALKED UP TO THAT SAME CHILD AND SAID, "HEY, WANNA TAKE IN LIFE?... WANNA BE SOMEONE THAT COUNTS?... MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

I CAN'T GET YOU ANY FAST MONEY, BUT HANG WITH ME AND I'LL TEACH YOU HOW MONEY WORKS. TAKE A LONG WALK DOWN A MUCH LONGER STREET?

THAT MENTOR STANDING ON THAT SAME STREET CORNER -- THAT'S DARE. AND IT'S BECAUSE OF DARE THAT I FORMED THE SUGAR RAY LEONARD YOUTH FOUNDATION. WORKING TOGETHER, WE HOPE TO GIVE EVERY CHILD WE CAN REACH THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES MANY OF US HAD AS KIDS. THROUGH EDUCATION AND SUPPORT, THAT THESE KIDS SO BADLY NEED TO RESIST DRUGS, DARE CAN QUITE LITERALLY CHANGE THE FACE OF THAT PUZZLE KNOWN AS AMERICA'S FUTURE. A MENTOR FOR EVERY NEEDY KID. WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT. THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES.

I STAND BEFORE YOU AS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF A MENTOR, SUPPORT AND BELIEF IN ONE'S SELF.

I WAS BLESSED WITH A FEW THINGS MANY OF THESE KIDS ARE LACKING TODAY. I HAD CLOSE KNIT SUPPORT. I HAD A MOTHER, A FATHER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS. BUT, I LACKED CONFIDENCE. I FELT INFERIOR, LIKE A LOT OF KIDS DO. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS AFRAID. I WAS TOO SHORT FOR BASKETBALL, TOO SMALL FOR FOOTBALL -- NOT COMFORTABLE WITH TEAM SPORTS IN GENERAL. IT SEEMED EASIER TO GO IT ALONE AND BOXING CERTAINLY FILLED THAT NEED. THOUGH I MUST SAY, THE FIRST TIME I COMPETED WITH GLOVES - THEY WERE REALLY BIG GLOVES - I GOT HIT HARD. I CRIED AND QUIT THE VERY NEXT DAY. SO, TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER RETIRED FROM THE RING. I CAME BACK LATER AND... WELL, RETIRED A FEW MORE TIMES. AND THERE MAY BE MORE TO COME.

BUT, I KNEW THAT BOXING WAS THE RIGHT OUTLET FOR ME.

I HAD PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN ME. AND I HAD JUST ENOUGH SKILLS TO KNOW I COULD COMPETE. THAT'S ALL I NEEDED. THE NEXT TIME I PUT THE GLOVES ON, THINGS WERE DIFFERENT. I WAS VERY FOCUSED. MAYBE OUT OF FEAR OR HAVING EXPERIENCED INFERIORITY, BUT I HAD DEVELOPED AN INTENSE NEED TO BE THE BEST.

I REMEMBER EARLY ON, SOMEONE ASKING ME IF I WANTED TO BE CHAMP. I SAID, "NO, I JUST WANT TO BE SPECIAL." AND THAT'S WHAT CARRIED ME SO FAR, TO BE DIFFERENT. I WAS SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE DEVELOPED AN INNER STRENGTH. I KNOW NOT EVERY KID HAS THAT, INSTINCTIVELY. SOME ARE BORN WITH IT. MOST CHAMPIONS ARE NOT. IT'S SOMETHING THAT IS LEARNED. AND THAT'S WHERE THE DARE PROGRAM AND THE SUGAR RAY LEONARD YOUTH FOUNDATION COME IN. WE ARE THE ADOPTED MENTORS. ....

...THE VOICE THAT TELLS A KID HOW DRUGS DESTORY, THAT HE OR SHE CAN BECOME WHATEVER THEY DESIRE. THAT BOUNDARIES DON'T EXIST. IN FACT, FROM THE BEGINNING, THE CREDO FOR MY YOUTH FOUNDATION HAS BEEN "BE A LEADER, NOT A FOLLOWER. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. IF YOU DON'T, NO ONE ELSE WILL.

YOU KNOW, WE CAN SPEND ALL THE MONEY THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO FIGHT THE BAD GUYS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? IF WE CAN GET TO THE POTENTIAL BUYERS BEFORE THE BAD GUYS GET THERE, THEN THE BAD GUYS GO OUT OF BUSINESS. SUPPLY AND DEMAND. WE WANT THE DEMAND TO DISAPPEAR. THIS IS PRECISELY WHY DARE BEGINS AT THE KINDERGARTEN LEVEL WHERE KIDS ARE THE MOST IMPRESSIONABLE, AND CONTINUES THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

I WATCHED FRIENDS OF MINE SUCCUMB TO DRUGS OVER THE YEARS. WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS FALLEN VICTIM. THROUGH THE 60'S AND 70'S DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AMONG OUR NATION'S YOUTH INCREASED STEADILY.

NOT UNTIL THE MID-EIGHTIES WAS THERE AN ACTUAL DECLINE IN USAGE AMONG HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. COINCIDENTALLY, THAT WAS THE SAME TIME THE DARE PROGRAM WAS CREATED. THE PROGRAM AND ITS MESSAGE SPREAD RAPIDLY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, TO SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WHERE DRUG AND ALCOHOL USAGE AMONG KIDS CONTINUES ON THE DECLINE TO THIS DAY.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THROUGHOUT ALL MY YEARS IN THE RING;... THE LONG DAYS OF TRAINING AND PUSHING MYSELF;... THE RUN TO THE OLYMPIC AND MY PROFESSIONAL TITLES,... WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE,... MY GREATEST SATISFACTION IS KNOWING I CAN STILL USE MY MOTIVATIONAL SKILLS TO IMPACT AND REACH SO MANY THOUSANDS OF KIDS EVERY DAY. IT'S MY DREAM. I AM HERE TODAY BECAUSE I KNOW THAT VARIOUS GOVERNMENT FUNDED DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMS HAVE COME AND GONE. THEY GET LOST IN THE SHUFFLE OR THE JUGGLING OF OTHER ASSISTANCE OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. AND I AM HERE TO REMIND YOU THAT DARE HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE IN MOST EVERY CORNER OF AMERICA FOR FIFTEEN YEARS AND THEY ARE ONLY GETTING STRONGER. A VERY TINY PORTION OF THEIR FUNDING CURRENTLY COMES FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES.

DARE IS A NON-PROFIT PROGRAM THAT DEPENDS HEAVILY UPON THE GENEROSITY OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, CELEBRITIES, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE DARE OFFICERS IN ACTION. IT'S A GREAT JOY. THEY NOT ONLY WORK WONDERS IN THE CLASSROOM, BUT ON THEIR OWN TIME, AS WELL. AND THE KIDS RESPOND. IT'S ONLY HUMAN TO RESPOND TO SOMEONE WHO TEACHES YOU TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT ALL OF DARE'S OFFICERS ARE POLICE OFFICERS. FOR EVERY RELATIONSHIP FORGED NOW, THAT'S ONE LESS THAT MIGHT, ONE DAY, END UP IN THE BACK SEAT OF A PATROL CAR.
DARE HAS BEEN HUGELY SUCCESSFUL AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL AND NEEDS TO CONTINUE THAT SUCCESS AT THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL.

LET THE GROWTH CONTINUE. IT'S ABOUT THE FUTURE. COULD IT BE ANY SIMPLER?... YET, AT THE SAME TIME MORE URGENT?

DON'T MAKE THESE KIDS WAIT. THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY MORE DRUGS AND VIOLENCE THAN MOST OF US CAN IMAGINE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO STEP IN THE RING WITH SOME OF THE FOES OUR KIDS ARE CONFRONTED WITH TODAY. THEY NEED THE EDUCATION,... GUIDANCE.... AND THE ROLE MODELS TO GET A REAL RUNNING START. MY SUCCESS IN LIFE WAS BUILT THROUGH DEDICATION, BELIEF AND ACTION. I HOPE THIS COMMITTEE WILL DO THE SAME BY FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH FUNDS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR DARE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Mr. HASTERT. Well, thank you, Mr. Leonard. We certainly appreciate your being here today. And I think supporting these kids and kids throughout this country that you're here and to hear someone like you give his testimony.

What, in your mind—and you've been a pioneer—you've worked with D.A.R.E., you've created the programs that you have in your areas—we believe, very importantly and my own personal experience as a coach and athlete over the years that, examples do make a difference to kids. How can we, in Congress, best help people like you who want to get that message across?

Mr. LEONARD. We, as athletes, particularly athletes, have such an impact on the lives of so many millions of children. They are so impressionable that they try to emulate us. I think programs like D.A.R.E. with its consistency to educate, support and embrace these kids will make a major difference.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you.

The gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's a pleasure to have you here. I was particularly struck by your comments about developing a confidence and a belief in yourself. It made me think of a little talk that I give at times in high school and talk about Michael Jordan, who was cut from his high school basketball team, but he believed in himself. Or President Clinton, who the first time he ran for office, actually ran for Congress and was defeated, but believed in himself. Or, Oprah Winfrey, who is probably best associated with Chicago, but grew up in a public housing project in Milwaukee and believed in herself.

Not everybody's going to achieve the same that you or those other three, but there's a lot of young people here today and how would you convey to them, the best way to believe in themselves? What helped you to believe in yourself, even after you started crying when somebody hit you?

Mr. LEONARD. I think the message that is sent to so many kids is the fact that, if you don't win, that you're nothing. I think we must convey to kids that you're a winner if you try hard. It stems from a corporate standpoint, endorsement standpoint that, if you're not a winner, we don't need you. These kids are winners by being nice kids, by going to school and getting their education, we have to assure them that they are somebody.

Mr. BARRETT. Again, when you were a young child, was it your teachers, your family, was it yourself, what do you think instilled that in you?

Mr. LEONARD. Fortunately, for me, I had a mother and father that worked so hard to support their family, but they were always there to give me love, give me support. I think, that too, is missing with so many kids. They don't have the love, support, and education that they need to get by in everyday life.

Mr. BARRETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Leonard, you talked for a little bit about the D.A.R.E. program in which you're heavily involved. And you mentioned that that program relies heavily on corporate funding from the private sector. Could you elaborate a little bit on that? Perhaps, identify

for us some of the companies that are particularly active and put their money where it needs to be, and that is in programs like this.

Mr. LEONARD. If my memory serves me correctly, the companies that I know are involved is K–Mart, Calcan, M&M, Mars, Warner Bros. Studios, Herbalife, and Uncle Ben's Rice. I've held two fundraisers in the past year or so and we raised a significant amount of money to go toward D.A.R.E.

Mr. BARR. I served as a U.S. Attorney back in the late 1980's, and it was after a long period of seeing in the 1970's, particularly in the 1980's, a significant increase in the use of mind-altering drugs, particularly by our young people. And it wasn't until about the mid-1980's where we started to really see a noticeable and demonstrable decline in the drug usage by our young people. I think, in large part, that could be attributed to the fact that people really started talking about it through the D.A.R.E. program, through the Just Say No program. President Reagan and his wife, Nancy Reagan were out there, as was George Bush, and Bill Bennett, the first so-called drug czar that we had.

I don't think it's a coincidence that, as we have removed over the last several years, the drug issue as a front-runner issue in which our elected leaders, particularly, at the national level speak about on a regular basis that we've seen those numbers start to creep back up. Do you agree that it is important for our leaders—and I don't speak just about our political leaders, but leaders in the sports area and law enforcement areas we have here today, the Christian Athlete Movement, particularly—I think faith-based programs are particularly significant, even though some up here on the Hill denigrate them because they are faith based, I think, they are among the most important things that we can do—but do you agree that it is important that if we're going to see those numbers start to turn back down, that it has to be based on putting the drug issue back out on the front burner, not shuttling it off to the side or whatnot? Do you think that's important to be out there visibly as a front-runner issue on the part of our leaders in all sectors?

Mr. LEONARD. I think it's very, very important. The theory is it can't be a one-shot-deal, because these kids are fighting a losing battle at times. And I think we have to come together collectively, if we tend to eradicate this epidemic. At times, it appears that things are getting worse, but for the most part, statistically, it's getting a lot better in a sense. But, I think that each and every one of us has a responsibility to make life better for these young people.

Mr. BARR. Finally, would you indicate to us—I'm sure you agree with this, but I think the kids and the listening audience would like to hear this also: Marijuana is bad. We hear a lot up here from some folks, we have organizations out there that say that marijuana is great, that it doesn't hurt you, that it's OK. I know you don't agree with that. We, up here certainly don't. If you could give our kids a message about marijuana, what would it be?

Mr. LEONARD. Well, marijuana to these beautiful, innocent faces—it's a drug and it's really bad for you. And what happens, it makes you go to worse drugs. So, the beautiful thing that you guys can do is stay drug-free and out of gang activity.

Mr. BARR. Thank you very much, Mr. Leonard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HASTERT. The gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Souder.

Mr. SOUDER. I, too, want to thank you for your leadership and willingness to speak out. You said that you were fortunate because you had a close-knit family, a mother and a father. Do you think that some of the behavior of role models of this country, whether they be athletes or musicians, has more of an impact on kids who don't have a dad there, and lack those other countervailing forces?

Mr. LEONARD. I think, I truly feel and I'm sure a lot of you will attest to the same thing that, athletes have a great impact on a kid's life and his or her reason to want to be like that person through the power of television which is a huge medium. These kids want to be like us, whether it's Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, or a great tennis player. I think, we need to understand that we play a major role in these kids life.

Mr. SOUDER. One of the things, at least, hopes, of most dads I think, hopefully, in my case with my two sons and you with your family and others is that, in my case, my kids would like to grow up like me, but play basketball like Michael Jordan, but they use, to some degree, their father as a role model. And the point of D.A.R.E. and a lot of these programs and school teachers and coaches is that without a dad there, particularly, young boys which is increasingly a focal problem that we have in our society are young boys who don't have dad impacting in their lives, they are more likely to be looking for some other role model because they don't see a male model in front of them.

If it's a drug dealer who has a big car, that's the danger and we're trying to counter-balance that. One of the things we're trying to work with here is what can we do and how can we reach out? Some people like yourself, are tremendous leaders in speaking out to young people, but some almost have a flippant attitude. They understand they have certain skills. They didn't really sign up to be a leader and yet, they are. How can we best make them aware of what kind of impact they're having in the formative years on junior high and high school kids?

Mr. LEONARD. I think what D.A.R.E. has implemented with starting these programs at a very early stage with these kids lives, in the kindergarten and all the way to middle school, then high school, we must continue to reach these kids at various stages of their lives, because they change. These kids are growing up so fast now. They're seeing more things on television and theaters, so we need to educate them consistently. Again, I must reiterate, it can't be a one-shot-deal.

Mr. SOUDER. Do you have any message to pro-athletes or movie stars or musicians who are using drugs, a message to them about what impact they're having on kids?

Mr. LEONARD. Well, if I had a chance to say something, it would be simply, "it's not about you, it's about our kids' future, and you play a major role in what happens with our kids."

Mr. SOUDER. From what you've seen in your program, are you pretty optimistic that if we made a whole-hearted effort in this country, if all of us focused on it, not only here in Government and in Washington, but at the local level, if athletes did, if music did, if the T.V. industry did, that we could actually have a dramatic re-

duction in drug-use? Or are you more pessimistic about the problem?

Mr. LEONARD. You know, sir, that's how I became six-times world champion—I was very confident, very optimistic. And I truly believe with everyone coming together, we can make a change. We can make a difference.

Mr. SOUDER. Thank you very much. I share your optimism. I think kids today really want to have that hope and really want to see people reaching out to them. If we can work together, I think we'll be successful.

Mr. LEONARD. Thank you.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you. I just want to say I really appreciate your being here today. I think in your testimony, one of the things that comes to light, an athlete or a movie actor, but especially in athletics, you don't win unless you have a will to win. And we really appreciate you and certainly, Sergeant Kelly and everybody else here to testify today because you do demonstrate a will to win this war and to save kids and our grandkids, and that's what this is about.

Congress can't pass a law or a whole series of laws and say we're going to save this country from drugs. It's going to have to be the American people. It's certainly going to have to be those people who have that image that people try to model their life after, people like you and certainly, Mr. Fitzhugh and others.

We appreciate you doing that and being here and to being really that testimony. It's certainly my pleasure to have you here. Thank you very much.

Mr. LEONARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HASTERT. And at this time, I'd like to recognize Sergeant Kelly from Chicago who is in-charge of the D.A.R.E. program. Sergeant, thanks so much for being with us today.

Sergeant KELLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hastert, Congressman Barrett, members of the subcommittee, it is an honor to have the opportunity to appear before you today to represent more than 30,000 D.A.R.E. officers nationwide.

As one of the longest serving D.A.R.E. officers in America, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that this program has had on our children. Over the last 10 years, I have administered the D.A.R.E. curriculum to literally thousands of students in Chicago, and I have watched the program grow throughout the Chicago area and across the Nation.

I began my career with the Chicago Police Department in 1968 at 22 years of age. I was assigned to undercover investigations, and among other things, I spent the next 20 years, working to keep drugs off the streets. During those years, I saw on a daily basis the destructive effect that drug abuse can have on individual users, as well as family members and friends. It can become a demoralizing job to try to stop the seemingly endless supply of drugs that invade America's streets.

After 20 years of watching drugs destroy communities, I jumped at the opportunity to take part in a new program designed to bring police officers into the schools to educate children about the dangers of drugs and drug abuse. In 1987, I was one of four officers selected to administer Chicago's Drug Abuse Resistance Education

program or D.A.R.E. I received my training from the Illinois State Police, and when the Chicago police department began D.A.R.E. in February 1988, I was the first officer to begin teaching.

Today, I am the Commanding Officer of the Chicago Police Department's School Visitation program. It is my job to coordinate Chicago's D.A.R.E. program. Ten years ago when I began, 3,800 students in 31 schools received the D.A.R.E. curriculum. Today, we are reaching over 155 schools, and this month more than 12,000 students will graduate from the program. This growth has been just as dramatic in the suburbs. As you may be aware Mr. Chairman, in Aurora, IL, there are now 26 D.A.R.E. officers administering the program to every 5th grade student there, both in public and private schools, as they pass through the elementary school system. That represents approximately 2,500 students a year.

In addition, D.A.R.E. America is currently trying to get D.A.R.E. into every middle school in America and that is vitally needed in Chicago. As a former educator, Mr. Chairman, I am sure you can appreciate how important repetition and reinforcement of English, math and social studies is as kids progress through their school years. To be effective, drug education should be no different. We need to have booster programs in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades reinforcing the D.A.R.E. lessons that our children learn in elementary school. I can't tell you how difficult it is each year to work with kids, developing relationships, and then not be able to be there for them when they are facing drugs for the first time.

For me, the success of D.A.R.E. should be measured not only by the number of schools or students that we reach, but also by the confidence and drug prevention skills that each child receives. Just like the kids who are graduating from the Chicago program, the students that we have with us today have learned about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs and if you take the time to talk to them, you will find out that these kids will know how to handle themselves when they are approached by someone with drugs. They know how to do more than just say "no." That's important, because as young as these kids may look to you and me, odds are that everyone of them will face drug use in the next year or two, if they haven't already.

In addition to the anti-drug message, D.A.R.E. is allowing kids to develop a positive relationship with law enforcement. The D.A.R.E. program allows students to get to know us as people and not just as police officers. It is always amazing to me to find out what these kids think about the police when we start a new session. We often have to overcome the negative stereotype that young have picked up on the street, as well as on TV and in the movies. D.A.R.E. helps kids overcome those stereotypes.

I can't tell you how many times over the last 10 years I've had kids tell me about older friends who offered them drugs or alcohol. These kids are reaching out to their D.A.R.E. officers, because they know that I will or we will do whatever we can to help them stay away from drugs and violence. Peer pressure can be a powerful force, and these kids need someone there who they can look up to and trust, who will reaffirm to them that it is "cool" to do the right thing.

D.A.R.E. officers are role models and it is a responsibility that we take very seriously. I can tell you that this is more than just a job for me, or at least, more than just a job for us. Two years ago, I was contacted by D.A.R.E. America to help develop a project for the D.A.R.E. Plus program. D.A.R.E. Plus is an after school program that sends police officers to public housing developments to talk with kids. This was an especially important opportunity for me because I grew up in public housing, and I know the challenges that kids in public housing face everyday.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I know you are concerned about the violence that is occurring in our schools. All D.A.R.E. officers are sworn, armed, police personnel trained as police officers. We are in the schools primarily to teach drug education, but we recognize our responsibility to protect students and teachers and those on those properties as the need arises.

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Sergeant Kelly follows:]

**Sgt. Sidney Kelly's Statement Before the**
**House Subcommittee on**
**National Security, International Affairs & Criminal Justice**
***(Thursday, June 18, 1998 - 1 p.m.)***

Chairman Hastert, Congressman Barrett, members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to have the opportunity to appear before you today to represent the more than 30,000 D.A.R.E. officers nationwide. As one of the longest serving D.A.R.E. officers in America, I have seen first hand the positive impact that this program has had on our children. Over the last ten years, I have administered the D.A.R.E. curriculum to literally thousands of students in Chicago, and I have watched the program grow throughout the Chicago area and across the Nation.

I began my career with the Chicago Police Department in 1968 at the age of 22. I was assigned to undercover investigations, and among other things, I spent the next twenty years, working to keep drugs off the street. During those years, I saw on a daily basis the destructive effect that drug abuse has on the individual user, as well as families and friends. It can become a demoralizing job to try to stop the seemingly endless supply of drugs that invade America's streets.

After twenty years of watching drugs destroy communities, I jumped at the opportunity to take part in a new program designed to bring police officers into the schools to educate children about the dangers of drug abuse. In 1987, I was one of four officers selected to administer Chicago's Drug Abuse Resistance Education or DARE program. I received my training from the Illinois State Police, and when Chicago began its D.A.R.E.

program in February, 1988 I was the first officer to begin teaching. Today, I am the Commanding Officer of the Chicago Police Department's School Visitation Section, and it is my job to coordinate Chicago's DARE program. Ten years ago when I began, 3,800 students in 31 schools received the DARE curriculum. Today, we are reaching over 155 schools, and this month more than 12,000 students will graduate from the program. This growth has been just as dramatic in the suburbs. As you may be aware Mr. Chairman, in Aurora, IL there are now 26 DARE officers administering the program to every 5th grade student, both public and private, as they pass through the elementary school system. That represents approximately 2,500 students a year.

In addition, D.A.R.E. America is currently trying to get DARE into every middle school in America and that is vitally needed in Chicago. As a former educator Mr. Chairman, I'm sure you can appreciate how important repetition and reinforcement of English, math and social studies is as kids progress through their school years. To be effective, drug education should be no different. We need to have booster programs in 7th, 8th and 9th grade reinforcing the DARE lessons that our children learn in elementary school. I can't tell you how difficult it is each year to work with the kids, develop relationships, and then not be able to be there for them when they are facing drugs for the first time.

For me, the success of DARE should be measured not only by the number of schools or students that we reach, but also by the confidence and drug prevention skills that each child receives. Just like the kids who are graduating from the Chicago program, the students that we have with us

today have learned about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs and if you take the time to talk to them, you will find out that these kids will know how to handle themselves when they are approached by someone with drugs. They know how to do more than just say "no". That's important, because as young as these kids may look to you and me, odds are that everyone of them will face drug use in the next year or two, if they haven't already.

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I can't tell you how many times over the last ten years I have had kids tell me about older friends who offered them drugs or alcohol. These kids are reaching out to their DARE officer, because they know that I will do whatever I can to help them stay away from drugs and violence. Peer pressure can be a powerful force, and these kids need someone there who they look up to and trust, who will reaffirm to them that it is "cool" to do the right thing.

D.A.R.E. officers are role models and it is a responsibility that we take very seriously. I can tell you that this is more than just a job for me. Two years ago, I was contacted by DARE America to head a pilot project

for the DARE Plus program. DARE Plus is an after school program that sends police officers to public housing developments to talk with kids. This was an especially important opportunity for me because I grew up in public housing, and I know the challenges that kids in public housing face everyday.

Finally Mr. Chairman, I know you are very concerned about the violence that is occurring in our schools. All DARE officers are sworn personnel trained as police officers. We are in the schools primarily to teach drug education, but we recognize our responsibility to protect students and teachers should the need arise.

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to testify today and I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you very much. I think we're going to go through the whole panel, and then we'll ask questions afterwards.

Mr. Gold, thank you for being with us today. Certainly, proceed with the summary of your written testimony.

Mr. GOLD. Thank you, Chairman Hastert, Congressman Barrett, members of the subcommittee, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to appear at this hearing to testify on the need for youth drug prevention programs.

As a professor in the college of medicine and researcher in neuroscience relating to drug use and abuse, dependence, this is a topic which I am exceedingly familiar. For over 25 years, my work has been devoted to studying the effect that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs have on the human brain and behavior. This research has led to new theories and treatments for addiction. However, the inevitable conclusion is that no treatment is as safe, effective or cost-efficient as prevention.

Today, we know more about the effects of drugs on the brain, than is known about almost any other medical or neurological disease. We have made tremendous progress in neurobiological research over the last 20 years. Brain receptors and related chemicals have been identified that are critical for the high produced by every drug of abuse. Receptors or cellular sites of action for marijuana, cocaine, tobacco, and opiates like heroin have been identified. The brain systems involved in drug euphoria and withdrawal have been discovered. This particular knowledge has helped us to better understand addiction, and offers hope for improved methods of treatment. Nevertheless, drug use and dependence continues to afflict our children at epidemic levels.

Scientific progress does not necessarily mean less use, less abuse, and less addiction. Medical research has improved the science and practice of addiction treatment, but at the same time more young people are smoking cigarettes, marijuana and using other drugs. It is for that reason that I am such an outspoken proponent of drug education and prevention. I am currently serving on the D.A.R.E. America Scientific Advisory Board; and it is in that capacity that I appear before you today. Although my background might be different than my fellow witnesses, my message is the same—we must focus on educating our children for prevention of drug use. Science simply proves what common sense should have already taught us—preventing kids from ever using drugs is the most effective form of drug control this Nation can hope to adopt.

Four years ago, D.A.R.E. America established the scientific advisory board to advise it on scientific issues relating to the contents and the delivery of the D.A.R.E. program. The scientific advisory board is made up of leading drug prevention researchers and practitioners such as: Dr. Herbert Kleber, executive vice president of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University; Dr. Robert Millman, the chairman of the Department of Public Health at Cornell University; and Dr. Kathleen Wulf, professor at University of Southern California to name a few.

Throughout the last 4 years, the board has recommended a number of improvements designed to help the D.A.R.E. program evolve along with the latest prevention and research findings.

Last year, the Scientific Board recommended a major campaign to revamp and expand the D.A.R.E. middle school curriculum to reinforce the core elementary school program. Research clearly has shown that continuous prevention or booster reinforcement of drug prevention skills is vital in reducing drug use. We felt that a committed effort to expand the frequency of D.A.R.E. program messages being given to middle school students would have a noticeable impact on youth drug abuse. D.A.R.E. America responded to this challenge by creating the D.A.R.E. Middle School Campaign designed to bring D.A.R.E. into every middle school by the year 2001. I understand that the campaign is currently seeking funding from Congress and I urge to support this important effort.

In May 1998, I was among the members of the D.A.R.E. Scientific Advisory Board who came to Washington to attend a joint Department of Justice/Department of Education workshop. Participants included prominent drug prevention researchers and other experts. Our task was to review the D.A.R.E. curriculum and recommend changes and enhancements. Among the national experts and researches present at that May meeting were Dr. Gil Botvin, Dr. Richard Clayton, and Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum—scientists who have studied D.A.R.E. and reported on different curriculum and approaches for prevention.

I am happy to report that the workshop was extremely productive, with everyone setting aside past differences to focus on the task of improving drug education. The outcome of the workshop was that D.A.R.E. America, prevention experts, and the scientific advisory board have agreed to implement several new pilot programs. These programs will test various competing instructor/curriculum models in grades K–12, under the umbrella of the D.A.R.E. program. As anyone in the prevention field will tell you, this is indeed landmark news.

I would like to submit, for the record, a letter from the chairman of the D.A.R.E. Advisory Board, Dr. Herb Kleber. This letter which is being sent to the Congressional Appropriations Committee, reports on the success of the workshop, and outlines the plans for the new pilot projects. In order to test and implement these new pilot projects, D.A.R.E. is seeking $5 million in funding, and I hope that you would support this historic partnership.

Before I turn my time over for any questions that you might have, I would quickly like to address one final issue—measuring the success of drug education programs. Let us take a quick look at the Nation's No. 1 drug problem, tobacco. In recent years, youth tobacco use, rather than decreasing as might be expected with recent publicity, has increased. Increases in tobacco related deaths and disability resulting from this surge in smoking are expected by all experts.

According to recent figures by the University of Michigan cigarette smoking has increased from 1991 to the current year among 8th-graders, 10th-graders and 12th-graders. According to recent CDC reports cigarette smoking among African American students has increased from 12.6 percent in 1991 to 22.7 percent in 1997. Smoking by Hispanic students has had a similar increase; from 1991 of 25.3 percent to 34 percent in 1997. Smokeless tobacco is also on the rise. In 1995, 3.6 percent of high school seniors used

smokeless tobacco compared to a current rate of 4.4 percent. Finally, 6 million or 28.7 percent of U.S. high school students smoked at least one cigar last year.

Smoking has increased despite tobacco prevention efforts which, like D.A.R.E.'s drug prevention efforts have been vigorous. Also, no one could at this point fail to recognize the dangers associated with smoking and environmental tobacco or second-hand smoke. Yet, smoking has increased. Why? To answer that question, I would ask the committee to look at the worldwide web where there are a number of sites listing how many celebrity role models have been smoking in recent movies.

Remember last year's blockbuster movie, the Titanic. The most faithful fans of the Titanic were adolescent girls who flocked to the theater time and time again to see the newest teen idol, Leonardo Di Caprio. What they saw was a young man repeatedly smoking as an integral, seemingly integral part of his persona. Role models, celebrity endorsements in the movies and media, and peer factors play an important part in shaping our children's decision.

For all that D.A.R.E. can do, the responsibility for reducing youth smoking and drug use must be shared by teachers, parents, churches, community leaders, the media, and so forth. Sugar Ray Leonard, as well as Sergeant Kelly, have set an extremely positive example by being here today, and I hope that young people recognize the courage and determination that they represent.

The D.A.R.E. program is one of the most powerful resources that we can give our children, and I hope you will support the program's expansion and revision in the coming months.

Thank you again, for allowing me the time to speak, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gold follows:]

**Dr. Mark Gold's Statement Before the**
**House Subcommittee on**
**National Security, International Affairs & Criminal Justice**
***(Thursday, June 18, 1998 - 1 p.m.)***

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Four years ago, DARE America established the Scientific Advisory Board to advise it on scientific issues relating to the contents and delivery of the DARE program. The advisory board is made up of leading drug prevention researchers and practitioners such as: Dr. Herb Kleber Executive Vice President of the Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse at Columbia University; Dr. Robert Millman, Chairman of the Department of Public Health at the Cornell University School of Medicine; and Dr. Kathleen Wulf, Professor at University of Southern California. Throughout the last four years, the Board has recommended a number of improvements designed to help the DARE program evolve along with the latest prevention and research findings.

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several new pilot programs. These programs will test various competing instructor/curriculum models in grades K-12, under the umbrella of the D.A.R.E. program. As anyone in the prevention field will tell you, this is indeed landmark news.

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is also on the rise[ii]. In 1995 3.6% of high school seniors used smokeless tobacco compared to a current rate of 4.4%. Finally, six million or 28.7% of US high school students smoked at least one cigar last year[iii,iv].

Smoking is the most common addiction and the most common addiction treatment failure. Of those smokers who successfully quit, less than 25% quit on their first attempt. Most individuals who smoke have 3-4 failures before they stop smoking for good. In the United States, about 45% of those who have ever smoked eventually stop smoking. Although over 80% of individuals who smoke express a desire to stop smoking and 35% try to stop each year, less than 5% are successful in unaided attempts to quit. Prevention is the treatment of choice.

Smoking has increased despite tobacco prevention efforts which, like DARE's drug prevention efforts have been vigorous. Also, no one could at this point fail to recognize the dangers associated with smoking and environmental tobacco or "second hand" smoke. Yet smoking has increased. Why? To answer that question, I would ask the Subcommittee to look on the www[v] to see just how many celebrity role models have been smoking in recent movies. Remember last year's blockbuster movie Titanic? The most faithful fans of Titanic were adolescent girls who flocked to the theater time and time again to see the newest teen idol, Leonardo Di Caprio. What these impressionable viewers saw was a young man repeatedly smoking as a seemingly integral part of his persona. Role models, celebrity endorsements in the movies and media, and peer factors play an important part in shaping our children's

decisions. For all that DARE can do, the responsibility for reducing youth smoking and drug use must be shared by teachers, parents, churches, community leaders and the media. Sugar Ray Leonard, as well as Sergeant Kelly, have set an extremely positive example by being here today, and I hope the young people recognize the courage and determination that they represent.

The D.A.R.E. program is one of the most powerful resources that we can give our children, and I hope you will support the program's expansion and revision in the coming months. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Mark S. Gold, M.D.
Professor, University of Florida Brain Institute
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[ii] Johnston, Lloyd Monitoring the Future Study. University of Michigan, NIDA, 1998.
[iii] Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC, Vol 46: no 20 pp 433-440, 1997
[iv] Marijuana use by 8th graders 22.6%, 10th 42.3% and 49.6%in 12th graders.
[v] For example, http://kohary.simplenet.com/smokemv.htm and http://www.tobacco.org/Misc/losses.html

Mr. SOUDER [presiding]. Mr. Fitzhugh.

Mr. FITZHUGH. Good afternoon and Mr. Chairman and Mr. Barrett, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to share with you this afternoon on a topic that has been pumping in my blood for a number of years.

Over the past 10 years I've had the privilege of working with thousands of at-risk youth in Washington, DC, and throughout the country. With deep-seated passion, I've often critically examined this population in an attempt to discover what ways to impact their lives for good. Many students with whom I work will have a better chance of being shot than even going to college. Their worlds consist of four blocks north, south, east and west. Some support their families, which usually consists only of a mother, siblings and cousins, with side hustles and drug processing and distribution. I look in their eyes and see the tenderness of a teenager and the emptiness and despair of a disenchanted generation all at one time.

Where can an indifferent generation find motivation and direction? What can bring hope when hope is as distant as forever? More importantly, how can I, as alienated as I feel from this culture, reach them with a message of faith and possibility. The solution is found in the one common cord that binds 96 percent of this country together at least once a month. In this common denominator, we see influence, affluence, and the lure of the American dream. We also find heroes and heroines, idols, role models and superstars. That common denominator is sports.

As a free safety for the now world champions—the Denver Broncos, I quickly discovered the power and the impact of playing at the highest level of my profession. As a free agent and uncelebrated rookie, I arrived at training camp one day only to be greeted by a Steve Fitzhugh fan club banner. Students in Denver, I had never known followed my every move and celebrated my every accomplishment. Even now, nearly 10 years removed, my history in the NFL serves as my access card to the hearts and lives of thousands of public and private high school students on campuses. Warranted or not, I am a role model and I have influence among the young. The question now becomes: How do I make the most of this privilege?

I'd like to offer three insights as to how we, through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and through some of the programs that PowerMoves presents, my own organization, attempts to reach these young people with the drug-free message.

I understand that students hear the anti-drug messages all the time and that many of these messages generally are unconnected to their world, cold and condescending. My solution is to be relevant, contemporary, but not corny, thus "NASTY,"—New Attitude Saving the Youth. NASTY is a project that includes a rap song about the distastefulness of cigarette smoking and drugs. It's real enough to motivate students to think differently about alcohol and other drug use and abuse. We developed NASTY because we realized that students are the best carriers of the message.

We all have solutions. We all have ideas. We all have statistics about the effects and the dreadfulness of drug use and abuse, but we have to find a way to get the students to celebrate doing the right thing and to empower young people to discourage their peers

and friends from doing the wrong thing. We do that through NASTY which is, ironically, when I walked in, I had several students from the D.A.R.E. program point a finger at me, and they said "NASTY," because they heard me perform the song in their school. And once you hear the song and once you're part of the program, it's hard for you to respond to cigarettes and alcohol in any different way other than saying, "NASTY."

I understand that the greatest influence in the lives of young people is peer influence and oftentimes we see this as we travel around the country at some of our camps and some of our programs and allow students to stand in front of the audience, give them a comment, a generic comment, and see whether or not they agree or disagree. The struggle that they experience because all of their peers are watching. Should I go to the left and say, disagree, or to the right and agree? It's revealing as to how powerful the influence of what their friends think and what their friends say about what they do and say.

So, our solution is to applaud the courageous who take a stand against alcohol and other drug abuse, while allowing those who simply go-with-the-flow, an opportunity to see the insanity of their rebellion. This is done through a variety of interactive paradigms and role-plays.

Just this past week, I spent Monday through Friday in North Carolina with 100 juvenile felons. I had an entire week to challenge them to change their ways. I found that camping experience, getting them away from their world and getting them on my turf and having an opportunity to put different kinds of ideas about potential and possibilities in their lives was a vital component to me impacting their lives. Although it's only been a week, I've received a number of letters from students who have said that that experience is very positive in their lives, although they are still detained in their correctional facilities.

And so it is with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, for over 40 years now, we've been providing camps in the summer for students to get away from their worlds, to get an opportunity to get a look at a different existence and different possibilities. Our camps have grown from just 1, over 40 years ago, to over 33 today, and 15,000 students from around the country who spend a week of what I call, "inspiration-perspiration," and get an opportunity to look at other possibilities in their world and in their lives.

And the most exciting aspect for many of them is to be at a camp, to be away from their environment, their community, is to be in a safe place where there are a number of other people who simply want to do the right thing. I've discovered there are a number of young people who don't want to go down the drain. They don't want to be labeled as the drug dealer, as the user, as the abuser. There are a number of young people who are doing the right thing. And our camps are an opportunity to bring students together in a safe environment and applaud them for saying "no" to drugs and being drug-free.

Third, I understand the students need to commit to being drug-free regardless to what the crowd is saying or doing. And I'd like to point to a program that we developed over the past couple of

years that has had significant success. It's called, "The One Way to Play Drug-Free."

I remember playing in the NFL and how excited I would get if I had a running back or receiver coming toward me. And as a defensive back, it was my job to discourage them from advancing the football. So I remember being excited when I had a receiver who would come and try to fake me out—go left, and go right, and go left—because before they could think twice I would hit them with all the Christian love I could muster in an attempt to do my job.

Well, I relate that story to young people and that's the basis of the One Way to Play Drug-Free Program. Don't wait until you get into a situation where you have to decide whether or not you're going to take the cigarette, take the pill, tote the marijuana. Decide now. And we actually give them a card to fill out, to make a commitment to say, "I'm going to be drug-free." And in that card I don't give them my autograph; it's their contract; they sign the card, and they say I commit to be drug-free.

Instead of Fellowship Christian Athletes standing—FCA standing for Fellowship for Christian Athletes, we changed that just a little bit. FCA stands, at this point for, faith, commitment, and accountability. I believe that this world is bigger than who I am, and I have purpose and destiny. And that's my fate. And my commitment is now I decide to be drug-free. And accountability, they can tear off the end of this card. And this card has five questions that they can hold one another accountable, hold their best friend accountable with the decision that they made. I'm not going to be in the hallways with the student. We're not going to walk with them every moment of their day in their lives, but they're going to be with peers, they're going to be with friends. And so the faith, and commitment, and accountability is you made the commitment to be drug-free. Find the best friend. You and that friend make that commitment. And encourage your friend at the end of each week. Are you living and playing drug-free? Or whatever playing may be—you may be playing an instrument, or you may be doing life, whatever that is—be drug-free.

We have over six jurisdictions, State jurisdictions, six Governors who have acknowledged and given proclamation saying that the One Way to Play Drug-free Program is effective. We've had over 70,000 students from around the country stand up and say I make the pledge. And the pledge has a statement: No shooting, no slamming, no pushing, no popping, no smoking, no snorting, no boozing, no dropping because there is only one way to play drug-free. And they get to put it in their locker room, and in their school, in their home room a poster where they can sign their name, and say yes I've committed to be drug-free.

And just recently we had the entire football team make the commitment to be drug-free. Two kids from that football team were found drinking. The captains of that football team took their names off the poster. Those kids went to the coach and went to the team, called for a team meeting, went before the team and apologized, and begged to put their names back on the poster. One way to play drug-free.

In conclusion, I'd just like to say this as it relates to some of the roles that the professional athletes have and some of our role as

authority figures. We all have influence but the youth are most impressionable. Athletes have an increased burden that accompanies their giftedness. Because of their high visibility they need to be sensitive to the messages they sound. Whether spoken or unspoken our influence is powerful, and when the ravages of drug use and abuse and alcoholism punctuates our families with disappointment and abbreviates the lives of the youth, then there is only one way to play and that is drug-free. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fitzhugh follows:]

**Committee on Government Reform and Oversight**
**June 18, 1998**
**Rayburn House Office Building**
**Washington, DC**
**Steve Fitzhugh Executive Director, PowerMoves**

Over the past 10 years I have had the privilege of working with thousands of at risk youth in Washington, DC and throughout the country. With a deep seeded passion I've often critically examined this population in an attempt to discover ways to impact their lives for Good. Many students with whom I work will have a better chance at being shot than of going to college. Their worlds consist of four blocks north, south, east and west. Some support their families, which usually only consist of a mother, siblings and cousins, with side hustles and drug processing and distribution. I look in their eyes and see the tenderness of a teenager and the emptiness and despair of a disenchanted generation all at one time. Where can an indifferent generation find motivation and direction? What can bring hope when hope is as distant as forever? More importantly, how can I, as alienated as I feel from this culture, reach them with a message of faith and possibility? The solution is found in the one common cord that binds 96% of this country together at least once a month. In this common denominator we see influence, affluence, and the lure of the "American Dream". We also find heroes, heroines, idols, role models and superstars. That common denominator is **sports.**

**A Personal Reflection**

As a free safety for the now world champion Denver Broncos I quickly discovered the power and the impact of playing at the highest level of my profession. A free agent and uncelebrated rookie, I arrived at training camp one day only to be greeted by a "Steve Fitzhugh Fan Club" banner. Students in Denver, I had never known followed my every move and celebrated my every accomplishment. Even now, nearly ten years removed, my history in the NFL serves as my access card to the hearts and lives of thousands of students on public and private High School campuses. Warranted or not, I am a role model and I have influence among the young. The question now becomes how do I make the most of this privilege?

**Solution with Understanding**

I understand that students hear anti drug messages all the time. That message is generally unconnected to their world, cold and condescending.

My solution is to be relevant, contemporary, but not corny…thus **"NASTY"** (New Attitudes Saving the Youth). NASTY is a project that includes a rap song about the

distastefulness of cigarette smoking and drugs. It's real enough to motivate students to think differently about alcohol and other drug use and abuse.

I understand that the greatest influence in the lives of young people is peer influence.

My solution is to applaud the courageous, who take a stand against alcohol and other drug abuse, while allowing those who simply go with the flow, an opportunity to see the insanity of their rebellion. This is done through a variety of interactive paradigms and role-plays.

I understand that students need to commit to being drug free regardless of what the crowd is saying or doing.

My solution is to present to them the **"One Way 2 Play Drug Free Challenge"**. Over 70,000 students throughout the country have signed the pledge by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) to be drug free. Studies suggests that students who make a commitment now to be drug free and signs and dates their commitment are 61% more likely to keep their commitment. The OW2P program not only affords the opportunity to make the commitment but it encourages accountably also. Each student who takes the pledge is encouraged to identify a best friend who will commit as well. At least once a week they meet to hold one another accountable to the pledge to be drug free.

**In Conclusion**

We all have influence, but the youth are the most impressionable. Athletes have an increased burden that accompanies their giftedness. Because of their high visibility they need to be sensitive to the messages they sound. Whether spoken or unspoken our influence is powerful. When the ravages of drug use and abuse and alcoholism punctuates our families with disappointment and abbreviates the lives of the youth, then there is only one way to play...drug free!

Mr. SOUDER. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. Ellis.

Mr. ELLIS. Good afternoon.

Let me, first of all, say that I am truly honored to be speaking before you today, and be part of such a distinguished panel. I am not a great athlete, except in my own mind. I am not a celebrity by any means. But, like you, everyday I wear many hats. As a divisional vice president of the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs, and a 25 year company veteran, I am an executive with an important job to do, but, like many of you, I am also a husband, a golfer, an uncle, and, most importantly, a parent. And while I worry about achieving my quarterly results, remembering my anniversary, and perhaps bettering my golf game, there is nothing that worries me more than my three children—their safety, their security, and their vulnerability. I also know that I am not alone in my concerns. Parents throughout our Nation worry about their children. And one of their biggest fears is drug addiction. And all of the troubles, and destruction that can come when their kids choose to use drugs as a way to be cool, to cope, or to test their curiosity.

In fact, a few years ago as K–Mart conducted extensive customer research to help guide our strategic turnaround, we asked our shoppers what they worry about, and their children were their biggest concern and drug abuse was their greatest fear. But I guess that should surprise none of us.

The pervasiveness of drugs keeps growing stronger on our playgrounds, at the neighborhood hangout, and in the hallways of our schools. Adding to that, there are just far too many negative images in entertainment, in athletics, and in our hometowns of people who kids should respect disappointing us by turning to a life of drugs.

We are facing statistics which suggest that a younger age than ever before children are actively experimenting and using drugs. We know that today there are 15 million youths in the United States who are at risk, who don't have the safety nets, the caring adults, essential to help them along the way. It is a national tragedy that 6 to 8 million kids under the age of 18 are now using illegal drugs. Instead of popping fly balls or playing with dolls, they're popping pills and smoking crack. It is horrifying that in 1998, 1 in 11 kids under 18 continue to experiment with drugs and use drugs. Youth drug abuse is truly a national tragedy that none of us can ignore. We must fight it in any and every way that we can.

In 1996, with the leadership of K–Mart's chairman, president and CEO, Floyd Hall, we launched an unprecedented national effort to fight drug abuse in our own unique way. We formed the K–Mart Family Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that exists solely for the purpose of raising and contributing funds to grassroots, drug-fighting organizations in the communities we serve nationwide.

In August 1996, we unveiled the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs, a fun, family oriented event that encourages healthy competition for children who are 7 to 12 years old. Kids race against the clock on safety-modified lawn tractors, believe it or not, for a chance to win scholarships. To meet heroes who know that winners are drug-free and in doing so, for each child who races, $5 is do-

nated to local drug fighting programs. In a few minutes, I'll share a videotape which illustrates the excitement and reach of this program.

We knew from the beginning that it would only be successful if we could get some of America's most recognized celebrities to endorse and personally participate in the program. Legendary actor and race enthusiast, Paul Newman, who understands firsthand the devastation that drugs can have on a family, as well as Jacklyn Smith and Kathy Ireland, not only popular, talented, and attractive actresses, but also caring moms, signed on as honorary co-chairs of the K–Mart Family Foundation.

We then went about the business of mapping out our route to key cities around the country, setting our goals for how many kids we wanted to reach, and how many dollars we wanted to raise, and literally recruiting a "Who's Who" of celebrity endorsements. Since we launched the K–Mart Family Foundation and revved the engines for the first time at the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs, we have touched close to 300,000 children with an anti-drug message. We have contributed nearly $3 million to drug-fighting programs around the country, and see nothing but continued momentum ahead. This year we've already traveled to 32 markets and we'll reach a total of 70 markets by November, when we conclude our season and prepare for nationals competition next January.

Let me just highlight some of the legends and leaders who understand what it means to get involved in the fight against drugs. Of course, there's Sugar Ray Leonard who has been with us at a number of our events, but the "Who's Who" also includes, Michael Andretti, David Robinson, Scottie Pippen, Mary Lou Retton, Hank Aaron and Sinbad to name just a few.

When we launched the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs we did so based on the fundamental belief that business could no longer ignore the devastating affect the drug abuse is having on our youth, our families, and our Nation's work force. When it comes to reaching kids, it's not enough to just tell them drugs are bad, we must grab their attention with fun, family oriented events that involve people they admire and respect.

We know that when you reach kids at an early age with positive alternative, there's a 90 percent greater chance they'll resist drugs as teens. As a national participating company in America's Promise, the initiative headed by General Colin Powell and reaching into the communities that we serve nationwide, K–Mart has pledged that we will spend, raise, and/or contribute at least $50 million by the year 2000 for grassroots drug fighting and prevention programs. By doing so we will involve 2 million children and their families in the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs. That is a commitment that we reaffirm to you today. And while it is a great story to tell, it is a better one to see. And so I'd like to take a few minutes to show you the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs, to hear from many of our dignitaries and celebrities, as well as our kids.

Could we roll the tape?

[Video shown.]

Mr. ELLIS. If you'd like to cut the tape, we can cut it off at this point. I think you pretty much get the idea.

I think you see why we are so proud of this unique and fun program. It is also teaching us many lessons. Two lessons we've learned which are adding to the success of this event are.

First, success requires effective grassroots participants, charitable partners who are out there waging the war every day, those partners being D.A.R.E., MADD, CADCA—the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America—and RADD Kids—Recording Artists, Actors, and Athletes Against Drunk Driving.

The second lesson that we've learned is that role models come in all sizes, and that some of the most popular are young actors like Bryton McClure, who is not only one of the best tractor racers around, but who also has the ability to touch other young people in real and meaningful ways. Bryton, who plays Richie on the long-running CBS television series, Family Matters is with us today, and I am proud to introduce him as our partner in the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ellis follows:]

Like you, every day I wear many hats. As the Divisional Vice president of the Kmart Kids Race Against Drugs and a 25-year Company veteran...I am an executive with an important job to do. But like many of you, I'm also a husband...a golfer...an uncle...and, most importantly, a parent.

And while I worry about achieving my quarterly results...remembering my anniversary...and even bettering my game...there is nothing that worries me more than my children--their safety, their security and their vulnerability.

I also know that I am not alone in my concerns. Parents throughout our nation worry about their children...and one of their biggest fears is drug addiction...and all the troubles and destruction that can come when their kids choose drugs as a way to be cool...to cope...or to test their curiosity.

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Adding to that, there are just far too many negative images in entertainment...in athletics...and in our hometowns of people who kids should respect disappointing us by turning to a life of drugs.

We are facing statistics which suggest that at a younger age than ever before, children are actively experimenting and using drugs.

We know that today there are 15 million youth in the United States who are "at risk"...who don't have the safety nets, the caring adults, essential to help them along the way...

It is a national tragedy that 6 to 8 million kids under the age of 18 are now using illegal drugs. Instead of poppin' fly balls or playing with dolls...they're poppin' pills...or smoking crack.

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(VIDEO)

I think you can see why we are so proud of this unique and fun program. It is also teaching us many lessons. Two lessons we've learned which are adding to the success of this event are:

First, success requires effective grassroots participants, charitable partners who are out there waging the war every day...

And second, that role models come in all sizes...and that some of the most popular are young actors like Bryton McClure, who is not only one of the best tractor racers around but who also has an ability to touch other young people in real and meaningful ways.

Bryton, who plays Richie on the long-running CBS television series Family Matters, is with us today. I'm proud to introduce him as our partner in the Kmart Kids Race Against Drugs.

Mr. MCCLURE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ellis.

My name is Bryton McClure, and for the past 8 years I've played Richie on the television show "Family Matters." I feel honored to be here today on behalf of K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs and RADD Kids, Recording Artists, Actors, and Athletes Against Drunk Driving, to talk about the influence role models have on kids.

Since I have been on television, I have been very fortunate to be in a position to try to help others to be leaders. Everyone wants to be a leader whether they're in a race car or choosing sides for a team because everyone knows that leaders are winners.

One of the reasons I think the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs works is because it teaches kids that winners don't do drugs. K–Mart backs up this message by bringing young people together with role models like athletes and entertainers who show by how they live their lives that you don't have to do drugs to be cool. They show kids what is possible when you make positive choices.

My first and most important role models, my parents, are here with me today. They are why I am involved in speaking out against drugs, alcohol, and violence. I'm just following their example. I talk to my parents about these problems, but not all kids are as lucky as I am, and they may see actors and professional athletes who they watch on TV as their role models. And that's why I think that while being on television doesn't make me a star; it does make me a role model.

Now what is a role model? Well a role is a part, and a model is an example. As role models, we play the part of setting examples for other kids. Not just examples of success, but examples of what it takes to be proud, to be happy, to be safe, and to be winners in life.

I spend a lot of time talking to kids all over the country about saying no to drugs, alcohol, and violence to help children understand the importance of making smart and safe choices. I think it's important for adults to set good examples too.

My dad, who is a musician, and I wrote a song together. It's called, "Don't Lie to Us." It's about how parents' actions speak louder than words. Our song goes:

"They say they say love you;
Then walk away;
They say they need your love, but send you off to play;
They say don't drink or do drugs;
It's not OK;
They say don't do what I do, just do what I say."

That's just a small part of it. [Laughter.]

Whether you know it or not, chances are there is a kid who looks up to you and they are watching what you do just as much as they are listening to what you say. Being a role model is probably the most important job you can have.

My parents, the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs program, and RADD Kids have given me the opportunity as a role model, and try to set good examples for kids all across America. Now that I'm involved in anti-drug programs it makes me feel responsible and committed to staying drug-free, so I can show other kids that we

can reach our goals, and make our dreams come true, but only if we stay drug-free.

I would like to thank everyone for having me here today. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McClure follows:]

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I talk to my parents about these problems, but not all kids are as lucky as I am. And they may see actors and professional athletes, who they watch on TV, as role models.

That's why I think that while being on television doesn't make me a star -- it does make me a role model.

What is a role model? A role is a part, and a model is an example. As role models, kids who are on TV play the part of setting examples for other kids -- not just examples of success, but examples of what it takes to be proud, to be happy, to be safe and to be winners in life.

I spend a lot of time talking to kids all over the country about saying no to alcohol... no to drugs... and no to gangs and violence, to help other children understand the importance of making smart, safe choices.

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I would like to thank everyone for having me here today. Thank you.

Mr. SOUDER. Well, thank you very much for your testimony, and your song, and your patience being the clean-up hitter on the panel. [Laughter.]

At least everybody only had one take or we could have been here a long time, including the Members of Congress.

We have a vote on and we are going to be back in a few minutes for the questions, but I wanted to put a poster out that I'm going to ask you to comment on. We have a number of companies that, in my opinion, aren't behaving like K–Mart. Addidas has a new hempamania shoe; Tower Books and Records has a display on how to make drugs, and this particular poster is in windows of every mall practically across the country right now from the Body Shop promoting hemp marijuana-related products. And I would like to see and hear some of your comments, as well as Dr. Gold, on cigars, and some of our leaders using that as a victory celebration much like you mentioned on smoking.

With that we stand in recess.

[Recess.]

Mr. BARR [presiding]. Thank you all very much. The schedule, as you all can probably tell, around here is a little bit jumbled up here sometimes, and flexibility is the key word.

We are going to have a vote in a few minutes and Mr. Souder will be back to take over the Chair of the subcommittee in a few minutes after he votes. But in the meantime, if I could ask just a couple of questions.

Mr. Fitzhugh, what, in your view, is the benefit to faith-based anti-drug programs? Do you think that should be an important component of our overall drug effort? Maybe particularly as it relates to our young people?

Mr. FITZHUGH. I think that's a good question. Particularly at the recent summit on volunteerism, a lot of my colleagues who—I did not attend, but I had colleagues that shared with me that across the board some of the faith-based programs and volunteering programs were some of the most effective. My response is simply this: I have worked with a lot of students from a lot of different backgrounds. I guess some of my expertise would be with primarily the students from the most hardened backgrounds and communities, and some of the most challenged communities, and some of the most at-risk youth. I believe all of our students are at-risk.

What faith-based simply does is challenges not just a change of attitude, not just a change of curriculum, not just a change of knowledge, I think foundationally, it's a change of heart. And when you have that internal change, as opposed to some of the external change and pressure, it has in my experience been some of the most effective starting with me.

Being a person who grew up in a very challenged community with a lot of negative images all around, including drug and alcohol use and abuse, my revolution personally began when I came to the realization that, although I may not have been my parents' intention, I was God's intention, and I had purpose and destiny, and all those sorts of things in my life. So a change of heart came, and that change of heart gave me a backdrop of truth to lay all of my realities against. And what I thought was my destiny and going to be my reality at one point, which was very discouraging, I realized,

against the backdrop of what I believe to be true, was not my reality. My reality now is a healthy lifestyle, a drug-free lifestyle, and a lot of potential, and a lot of excitement and zeal, and I try to pass that on to the students.

Mr. BARR. So at least in your experience, and your personal situation, religion did play an important role?

Mr. FITZHUGH. It played an important role and I say that, and I also say that it's not so much religion as you think of it. I was confronted with that particular question by a young man just a few days ago who was struggling with trying to get a hold of religion in his life. He believed that it was something that he needed to do. He was also a convicted murderer. My response to him is that it is not so much religion as it is relationship, as it is hanging out with this and getting to know this guy that they call Jesus, and getting to know who God is, and getting to know about who you are, and building a relationship, and trying to have that base and foundation on truth and love. So many young people that I deal with have to do re-education before I do education when it comes to religion, because something that is supposed to be one of the most liberating experiences and forces in our lives, the church often becomes one of the most conforming influences in our lives.

Mr. BARR. If it's conforming for the right reasons that's—excuse me.

We will stand in recess until we vote. I've got to get over, I'm going to get in trouble for not voting. So we will be in recess for a few moments until Mr. Souder and I can come back.

[Recess.]

Mr. SOUDER [presiding]. The committee is back in session.

When I was a staffer, Carolyn Walsh up in Newark, she said one of her frustrations in working with kids and in kids programs was is that she would work with them all day then they would go home and watch television, or go to the mall, or something impact. And she said we need a drumbeat throughout the entire society. And as I said just before I left, I would like to get your comment on how you feel about something like this poster from the Body Shop, for example in Pentagon City Mall. It is right at the top of the escalator. There are airports where its in Washington/National, it's in Fort Wayne, IN, where I represent. It is one of the largest retail chains right now in the country oriented toward young people, toward trendiness, supposed to be real hip much like the Adidas shoe or Tower Records. You all have spent a lot of your life trying to fight this stuff. What is your reaction to retailers who try to make money off this?

Mr. FITZHUGH. Well, I'd like to just make a couple of comments. One of our challenges is persuasive kind of mood that sweeps across our country among our young people is that of rebellion. And I deal with a number of young people who will have that shirt on without the words—you see. And that shirt simply says that I'm going to do what I'm going to do. So when you have our corporate community that begin to take images like this, I feel no matter how you slice it comes up bad news when you deal with drugs. Whether you're just standing on the corner watching out for a drug buy or whether you're just help processing, or no matter how you slice it when you participate in that community it comes up bad news. If

the corporate community was sensitive to the fact that there are a lot of people who run into this kind of thing on a different level, and it is destroying lives, I think they would be a little more sensitive to how freely they do this kind of advertising. Because the students I work with, when they see this I doubt that they ever see those words. [Laughter.]

Those words won't be the message. The message is this is "weed." As a matter of fact, I had a young man tell me last week he said, "Steve, weed has been good for me." He sells drugs; he sells weed; he doesn't sell crack; he sells weed and he tells me, "Steve, weed has been good for me." I said you're incarcerated aren't you? He said, yes, but I've only been locked up 126 days. I said, if you have been locked up for an hour it's a tragedy because all the money in the world can't buy back 1 hour of the time you have been locked up. But his perception is, "Weed has been good for him." So I think the corporate community has to be sensitive to how compromise and rebellion is destroying our communities.

Mr. SOUDER. I know that I have in addition to a 10½-year-old, more Mr. McClure's age, I have a son who is turning 19 in 2 weeks, and a daughter who just turned 21 yesterday. But one of the things that kids talk about is how hemp is different and it was in rope. That symbol doesn't, as you say the words, isn't there, Mr. Ellis, which says, for the record, "Hemp Revival for Skin Survival."

Mr. Ellis at K–Mart one of my frustrations, a few years ago I felt walking into a mall in Fort Wayne, it was almost like being back in the 1960's. You go to Urban Outfitters, or to the record stores and see this leaf on all kinds of record albums, see it on hats, on t-shirts. Does K–Mart have any kind of policy on what you will sell and not sell regarding schedule 1 substances and that type of thing in even in your clothing, or that type of thing in let alone advertising?

Mr. ELLIS. I would be lying to you if I said I could quote a corporate policy, but we very much feel that we are a family store, a family corporation, and we guard that reputation very, very closely. And I think a poster like that is really a sad statement on our society. That anyone who would spend advertising money, and develop an advertising campaign, and feel that that is an effective, positive influence to bring customers into their store is really a sad statement, I believe, and kind of indicative of where we are today with our attitude toward drugs.

Going back to what Sugar Ray Leonard was saying earlier, can we defeat the problem, can we have a real influence on things? And I think if you study—and I'm not a drug expert, I'm a K–Mart operations guy who happened to get involved in a program that we think is phenomenal. But if you look at the history of drug usage in this country, we've had serious problems, and we've gotten on top of them. We've kind of dropped the ball and let the problem grow again, and this has happened many times in the last 100 years. And I think this is again, indicative of where we are facing this drug problem today, that this is acceptable and it is sending that message to the kids again.

Mr. SOUDER. So, in effect, you're saying at a time when we have all these people going to the emergency rooms, kids in my hometown doing drive-by shootings, and shooting up other kids, includ-

ing one 4-year-old who died, and another one diving under the sofa—totally innocent; hit the wrong house, but they thought it was somebody who had been involved in some broken drug deal—you're saying that this isn't particularly helpful? Is that the bottom line?

Mr. ELLIS. Exactly.

Mr. SOUDER. Dr. Gold, one question I get repeatedly when I go to high schools is, well, tobacco and alcohol are legal. One of my common responses is, if tobacco and alcohol were coming on the market today with what we know, we would not legalize them. That's no argument to legalize marijuana. And in fact, what we have been doing is tightening alcohol and tobacco steadily, particularly as information comes out on secondhand smoke, which I believe will be the next wave to hit us in a society which, quite frankly, marijuana secondhand smoke may be there as well. We don't know that, but research has been so suppressed on a lot of these subjects and inaccurately give to us.

Could you elaborate a little bit on you mentioned about in the movies, but I said I was going to ask about the cigars which certainly are a big, trendy thing. It seems like we move from one thing to another. It's grab the gusto for a while. It's all of which are some kind of trying to add something artificial to our basic selves in order to try to look more important. To some degree, that's what human beings do, but this is actually changing us and damaging us.

Mr. GOLD. Well, thank you for the question. Our work has dealt with what do drugs have in common, how can we understand drug effects on the brain, and how all of that relates to prevention. When you first look at the cigar data, you might say that all of that is cigar smoking. Some of the cigar smoking may actually be marijuana smoking in a cigar vehicle. Smoking itself is the gateway drug.

The D.A.R.E. program starts with smoking lessons. The D.A.R.E. people would say that smoking is the entry way for drugs, and even greater than that we know as researchers is that smoking, learning to smoke, that that's the way drugs have of gaining a broader foothold. So that if you could prevent anything, you would prevent smoking which is the inhalation of drug vapors. Smoking for researchers who study this is virtually identical to injecting a drug intravenously with a needle. It gets to the brain that fast. It influences the brain chemistry that fast. It causes profound changes that ordinarily would not occur if the drug was taken by any other route. So by taking our eye off the ball of cigar smoking, or marijuana smoking, we have many young people today who have gotten to tobacco second; that they learned smoking and now are smoking cigarettes because they are more widely available. I think there was a recent report associated with a CDC release on concurrent use of marijuana and tobacco on African American youth.

Prevention starts, in our opinion, with smoking prevention. If you don't learn how to inhale drug vapors, it is very difficult to start with crack. You have to start the process of learning how to deliver drugs to your brain through your lungs. So all of our efforts are devoted to smoking prevention. And I think you are correct that if you look at the preventable causes of death, looking at the currently available statistics, you would put environmental tobacco

smoke which certainly would include any environmental tobacco smoke high on the list. And it is very high on the list for breathing problems in young people, especially, cough, respiratory problems, and the new data on permanent arterial vascular disease, blood vessel disease associated with second hand smoke. So I would agree with you completely.

Mr. SOUDER. Thank you.

Sergeant Kelly, I want to commend you for your work in D.A.R.E. and looking as both of you had talked about at the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade levels because a couple of things you hear frequently is no 15-, 18-, 20-year-old drug dealer wants their younger brother or sister to get involved in it, which says something in itself. Yet they tend to have the pattern of following through. You also meet very few kids in any city in America who in third, fourth, and fifth grade don't want to be doctors, policemen, firemen, astronauts the goals—or Michael Jordan—the goals are very similar in elementary school, but somewhere in there, there starts to be a period where the challenges and the changes are.

Do you—in your years of work with this—do you have any particular advice as we look at these different anti-drug programs or prevention programs of how best to combine some targets, and how best to reach the children who become at-risk, who start to see some of this, often becomes they've combined, if I may just expressly say this—they may not only not know who their father is, they may not know who God is because they haven't been exposed to faith; they may not really have anybody who is anchoring them, and they are very vulnerable in that period. What ways do you think we could best reach them and how we should be looking at this from our end, in addition to what you are doing on your end?

Sergeant KELLY. I think the big picture is we must realize as adults that some people are exposed at grades, at third maybe even second grade, because of the guy on the corner. They talk about peer pressures or role models, but a father can be in the house and he can be a role model, but is he a positive role model? The father could actually be a drug user.

What we have to do as adults, and you as politicians, is come up with a curriculum, funds, and I guess police officers get out and be there for those kids when they need us. The disadvantage that they suffer—I come from public housing—and the disadvantage that they suffer in public housing is the fact that there are so many problems within those developments that the police are on call so much they don't have time to visit with young people.

The city of Chicago switched to a program called CAPS, or Chicago Alternative Policing Strategies, where we took police officers out of the cars and have them walking in the neighborhoods where they could get to know these young people by their names, so they can call them by their first name. That allows them to tell us things they'd like to tell us, but the bottom line to the whole thing is we have to come up with some kind of educational format that will help them arm themselves as early as 6 and 7 years of age.

Mr. SOUDER. Do you know if in any of the Chicago schools you work with if they use the drug-free school money for the D.A.R.E. program, or what programs they tap into, in addition to local police department funds, local city council funds, and so on?

Sergeant KELLY. We started back in 1988. There were funds from safe and drug-free schools, since that time those funds have been diverted to other programs within the school system. The Board of Education in Chicago has programs that deal with training their instructors to deal with drugs in the schools, some programs that deal with video tapes, or films, or books that they give to the students and then the other part is they call us. We have sections in the police department where we send police officers in to talk to them about the things associated with drug use and drug abuse.

Mr. SOUDER. Thank you. Mr. McClure, you have been an actor now for 8 years. Is that right?

Mr. MCCLURE. Yes.

Mr. SOUDER. Have you ever been exposed to any—have you been in any prevention program, have you ever been in a D.A.R.E. program, any kind of education program yourself?

Mr. MCCLURE. No, but I have worked a lot with programs like that.

Mr. SOUDER. Have you ever seen in your working environment other people using drugs or talking about drugs? Is it something that you've run into much in the set, or around the places you go?

Mr. MCCLURE. No. Not around the set or any of the events where actors don't talk about it or even think about doing it at all.

Mr. SOUDER. Well, first off, your parents get an "A" and second so do the people around you for that. I hope that as you continue in your career that you'll continue to realize the importance like the song that you wrote. One of the things we desperately need is the creativity that Mr. Fitzhugh has shown, and in your song and the music, because the penetration of these words—we had a hearing here with the music industry of the United States, where they tried to insist that the song "Heroin Girl" was actually an anti-drug song, when at one level it was, where at the second level it wasn't. It was actually a secondary appeal to those who are most potentially addicted and suicidal. And that later came out as we searched the Internet and saw what the original songwriter was intending through some of this stuff.

But I hope that you can be a real force with this because you're at a tender age yet, and you have many years in front of you. But you can be a tremendous force in society. The rest of us are getting a little older. [Laughter.]

You've got a lot of years ahead, and I thank you for coming today. With that I yield back to the real chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. Hastert.

Mr. HASTERT. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

I would like to followup. Mr. McClure, I'm sorry I did not get to hear your testimony, but I got called off to another meeting for a few minutes. Tell me, you saw these kids in here today and they are in the D.A.R.E. program, and you've worked with those kind of kids. What is the—and they have their heroes; they have their sports heroes, and certainly you are a role model because you're out there in front of millions of people every week. What do you think the message that is most effective to these kids? What do we have to get out to those kids? What is the story that they have to tell that really means something, it's just not an advertisement or

something that kids can blow off? What does it really mean? What should we be telling kids?

Mr. MCCLURE. Well, kids respond to other kids, and if events like the K–Mart Kids' Race Against Drugs, and things like that the kids really respond to any kids saying the message: Don't do drugs; don't do alcohol; stay drug-free; stay away from violence. They just really—it's a big impact on them from kids saying that.

Mr. HASTERT. We have had Sugar Ray Leonard here today, and certainly there are a lot of sports heroes out there that kids look up to. I just came out of Chicago and everybody has got the Bulls fever, those types of things. Do kids—do they value the behavior of those types of role models too, do you think?

Mr. MCCLURE. Definitely. Because sports, like Michael Jordan and Ken Griffey, Jr., they watch them almost every day. If a kid loves baseball, he is going to maybe love Ken Griffey, Jr., or any famous actor or athlete. So they are really going to listen to anyone that they look up to.

Mr. HASTERT. Well, I really appreciate you being here today. You are certainly a gifted person and you have had the opportunity to use that gift and that's great. And to also extend yourself to help others. I just hope that you'll keep that challenge in mind and working at it. And appreciate your folks giving you the support they need, and I just appreciate you taking the time to be with us today.

Mr. Fitzhugh, I appreciate you being here, too. What is the message that we need to grind out? You deal with pro sports people, athletes, and people around those athletes day in and day out. What's the message—how do we connect to really let them realize that they are the images out there. They are the role models for kids. What do you think the best message to use there is?

Mr. FITZHUGH. Well, I think a lot of our professional athletes they already feel the stress of being in a fishbowl, and everybody watches them. Often the things that they do and say are on the front page of the newspaper, whether they want it to be or not. I think it's important for them to have enough confidence in their personal lives that they are willing to do what it takes to make an impact. I work with a young man locally named Mark Bunk, whose name and presence alone has changed lives. And often times he'll come to a clinic or sporting event, and the little things that he says makes an incredible difference. If we could somehow challenge our professional athletes to play by the rules on all ends of the court, or the field, or whatever it is. If we could get a lot of professional athletes that need help off the field, and off the court.

I applaud what the Denver Broncos have done. They provide free services and counseling for any of their athletes, and it's like a big family. Once a Bronco, always a Bronco. That's exciting.

But if we could kind of encourage those kinds of efforts from our pro teams and organizations to get the help the athletes need. Even if it means if we can give our athletes a little sensitivity training in the ways in which they impact the lives of young people. Maybe if it's the compromising their speech at a bad call or if it's compromising their behavior at a party one night, that they need to know that they are gifted. And I believe that with that giftedness comes—with that little extra gifting comes a little extra

responsibility. They need to be sensitive to their language, sensitive to some of their habits, and we are not trying to run their lives. But if they knew how much weight they carry in the lives of young people.

Mr. HASTERT. Sergeant Kelly, I certainly appreciate you being here today, and the trip in from Chicago. I have worked with Superintendent Vallas, and certainly Mayor Daly and his leading up the mayors' association for the United States. Watching some of the things that they are doing in the school system, in school suspension, and trying to keep kids in school instead of out in the streets.

My brother teaches in Aurora, IL, in a junior high, in a tough area of kids at-risk. He has seen a couple of his students in the last couple of years get killed because of gangs, and drug violence, and gang violence. Kids need role models, more role models than are just on TV or just in athletics. One of my other concerns is, you know, I coached 16 years, and I think those people who work with kids day in and day out certainly make a difference. In your experience with—certainly your police officers are working with D.A.R.E. programs, but those kids are in the schools. Are those role models there, I mean, are there enough of them that especially kids that come from families without dads? Do we have the quantity of people that are willing to spend the quality time with kids to make a difference?

Sergeant KELLY. I'd have to say no. The reason I say that is because we are with those kids while they are in school. Once they leave that school, they become subject to the influence of other people. What we have to do while we do have them with us is instill within them values—where they will make the right decision when the decision timemaking comes. Because they're going to be subjected to all kinds of situations between that schoolhouse and their house. And then, again, as I was speaking before you came in, there may be problems in the household that they have to deal with.

I remember as a very young D.A.R.E. officer in the classroom a child running his finger down the chalkboard and putting the powder on his nose, and saying it would not hurt him because his parents do it and they said it wouldn't hurt them. And I realized then that his parents are putting some kind of illegal substance in their nose and he thinks it's OK. So we talk about peer pressure and role models earlier, but you have to have the right people around those kids to keep them straight.

Mr. HASTERT. Well, I think that too. I thank you for being here and to all of you. I said it before to Sugar Ray, but we can pass a lot of laws and try to fund programs and do those types of things. There really has to be a national will. And what is a national will? Well, it's people. It's folks like you, especially professional athletes, and people on TV because they are the symbols, and the role models. But it is moms and dads, and teachers, and preachers, and the cops on the street, and just people on the corner. They have to have a national will, and a personal will to make this country better and certainly it is not going to be better if we let drugs rule, especially in our inner cities and even in our affluent neighborhoods.

So I appreciate you being here and thank you very much.

I yield back to the chairman.

Mr. SOUDER [presiding]. I want to encourage Mr. Fitzhugh to do one other thing, and that is, if you can find other top defensive backs, to get them to work for program and retire so that Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts have a better chance of succeeding this year. [Laughter.]

Does anybody have any closing comments that you would like to make? Any additional comments? I want to thank you all, and I admire you all for your work in your field for standing up in your communities. Hopefully, we can continue to work together as we work with legislation, not only this year, but I agree with Gen. McCaffrey, it is a cancer in addition to a war. People are dying overseas; they are dying on our streets. So it is clearly a war, but it is also something that is not going to go away in a year or two even if we push it down.

Thank you for your help and we look forward to working with you.

And with that, the hearing stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned subject of the call of the Chair.]

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