

Mark McGwire Statement

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. My name is Mark McGwire.
2. I have played the game of baseball since I was 9 years old.
3. I was privileged to be able to play 15 years in the Major Leagues.
4. I even had the honor of representing my country on the 1984 Olympic Baseball Team.
5. I love and respect our national pastime, and I will do everything in my power to help the game, its players and fans.
6. First and foremost, my heart goes out to every parent whose son or daughter were victims of steroid use. I hope that these hearings can prevent other families from suffering.

7. I admire the parents who had the courage to appear before this Committee and warn of the dangers of steroid use. My heart goes out to them.

8. When I was lucky enough to secure my last major league contract, one of the first things I did was to establish a Foundation and donate \$3 million dollars of my own money to support abused children.

9. I applaud the work of the Committee in exposing this problem so that the dangers are clearly understood.

There has been a problem with steroid use in baseball.

Like any sport where there is pressure to perform at the highest level and there has been no testing to control performance enhancing drugs - problems develop. It is a problem that needs to be addressed.

10. Most importantly - every Little League, Pony League, High School and college player needs to understand that

performance enhancing drugs of any kind can be dangerous. I will use whatever influence and popularity I have to discourage young athletes from taking any drug that is not recommended by a doctor.

11. What I will not do, however, is participate in naming names and implicating my friends and teammates.

12. I retired from baseball 4 years ago. I live a quiet life with my wife and children.

13. I have always been a team player. I have never been a person who has spread rumors or said things about my teammates that could hurt them.

14. I do not sit in judgment of other players - whether it deals with their sexual preference, their marital problems or their personal habits - including whether or not they used chemical substances. That has never been my style,

and I do not intend to change just because the cameras are turned on.

15. Nor do I intend to dignify Mr. Canseco's book. It should be enough that you consider the source of the statements in the book and the many inconsistencies and contradictions that have already been raised.

16. I have been advised that my testimony here could be used to harm friends and respected teammates, or that some ambitious prosecutor can use convicted criminals who would do and say anything to solve their own problems, and create jeopardy for my friends. Asking me, or any other player, to answer questions about who took steroids in front of television cameras will not solve this problem. If a player answers no, he simply will not be believed. If he answers yes, he risks public scorn and endless government investigations. My lawyers have

advised me that I cannot answer these questions without jeopardizing my friends, my family, or myself. I intend to follow their advice.

17. It is my understanding that Major League Baseball and the Players Union have taken steps to address the steroid issue. If these policies need to be strengthened, I would support that.

18. I appreciate the difficult job you have as our Congressmen and Congresswomen and will use this opportunity to dedicate myself to this problem.

19. I am directing my Foundation to concentrate its efforts to educate children regarding the dangers of performance enhancing drugs.

20. I am also offering to be a Spokesman for Major League Baseball and the Players Association to convince

young athletes to avoid dangerous drugs of all sorts.

Thank you