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Pro Football Hall of Fame (1979) Linebacker  
House Oversight and Government Reform Committee  
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Thank you Representatives Issa and Cummings, and Members of the Committee. I appreciate your holding this hearing on HGH testing.

First, I applaud the NFL and Players for taking a bold and decisive position on HGH in their 10-year agreement. Now, let's get on with it. The HGH testing process is proven to be reliable. It's time to send a clear message that performance-enhancing drugs have no place in sports, especially the NFL.

As a sports enthusiast, I know you need both a great offense and a great defense to win. The defense is tough league testing and continued crackdown on drug suppliers. The offense is education and practical guidance.

For the last seven years, my son Matt and I have been playing offense. We've reached out to thousands of active teens across the country, encouraging them to Play Clean. That means, eating well, training hard, and playing with attitude, instead of using performance-enhancing drugs. We've made some progress. But our work is far from over. Today, we have about 400,000 teens who report they have experimented with performance-enhancing drugs. Many begin in middle school. One-third are young women.

We also discovered that five-in-six teens have never received education about performance-enhancing drugs, or their consequences. But once teens hear that they are illegal, mess up body development, and ruin their chances to play at the next level, they make smart decisions. Now, the work is to equip teenage athletes – and their parents and coaches – with programs making it easy to train hard and eat well. We need to make it easier to do the right thing.

Plus, every year we have another million or so teen athletes who need to be educated, along with their parents and coaches.

None of our work on offense will matter unless we have a strong defense. The NFL and Player agreement on HGH is a great playbook. Now let's get on the field and execute.

The well-being of our nation's most active youth is riding on it.....and they are paying attention to what happens in the NFL.