

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
LET THEM PLAY**

WHEREAS, California's children are "Essential."

WHEREAS, Youth sporting activities give direction and a team identity that provides discipline, accountability and hope.

WHEREAS, More than 3,000,000 children have been "benched" from playing sports since March 2020.

WHEREAS, The current guidance from the California Department of Public Health will keep most youth sporting activities and competitions shut down in 2021.

WHEREAS, The current moratorium on California youth sports creates an alarming social equity disparity, as private schools and exclusive club teams continue to participate in sporting activities.

WHEREAS, The ban on youth sports is having a devastating impact on California inner cities. Inner city coaches report a sharp rise in gang membership, drug and alcohol use, school dropouts, and incarceration.

WHEREAS, The ban on youth sports competition is currently creating an alarming negative mental health impact in the areas of suicide ideation, anxiety, depression, and suicide itself.

WHEREAS, More than 40 states have proven that it is possible to allow youth sporting activities to continue with limited COVID transmission.

WHEREAS, Families are leaving California and moving to other states in order to continue participating in sporting activities.

WHEREAS, California coaches are capable of following local, county and state guidelines and creating environments where students and coaches work together with extremely low, COVID transmission with zero hospitalizations and zero deaths.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the California State Assembly urges the California Department of Public Health to issue new guidance that will permit youth sporting activities and competition in California state to resume immediately, with proper safety protocols in place.