

June 30, 2021

President Mark Emmert and the NCAA Leadership Team,

As members of both the North Carolina House of Representatives and the North Carolina Senate, we want to express our concerns and disappointment with the disqualification of the North Carolina State baseball team from the College World Series. We understand that Covid-19 is a very serious and deadly disease, and that proper protocols and necessary precautions must be followed. However, the decision to eliminate the NC State baseball team is a complete hypocrisy that does not fall in line with the spectator policy which is also implemented and enforced by your organization.

The decision to disqualify the NC State baseball team came at the recommendation of the Championship Medical Team and the Douglas County Health Department. Their recommendation was not a requirement. The NCAA, in turn, treated this recommendation as a directive and eliminated the NC State baseball team from further participation in the College World Series. Phil Rooney, the spokesman for the Douglas County Health Department, went on record saying that their department would support the NCAA with whatever decision that was made; therefore, not imposing any disqualification of the team.

Our question is how does the expulsion of the NC State baseball team due to broken Covid-19 protocols make any sense when the stadium in Omaha for the College World Series was filled with 20,000 plus fans? Importantly, none of the spectators were tested for Covid-19 upon entry to the stadium nor were they required to be vaccinated or wear a mask to gain admittance. If the goal of the NCAA is to protect the college athletes, shouldn't the rules be equally applied across both spectators and players?

Of particular concern is the ambiguity and lack of transparency surrounding the impetus for changing the protocol regarding testing vaccinated players after the NCAA announced its position to only test unvaccinated players. Moreover, it should be stated that the infected members with Covid-19 were in contact with Vanderbilt's team. Yet they were allowed to continue forward in the series. If the NCAA's goal is to follow the science behind the Covid-19 virus, Vanderbilt's baseball team should have also been eliminated from participating further in the Series. Your duplicitous application of your own protocols between spectators and student athletes appears to be inconsistent and inappropriate.

In conclusion, the signers of this letter from both the NC House and Senate chambers are calling on the NCAA to issue a formal apology to the NC State baseball team for callously denying them their well-deserved position in the College World Series.

Respectfully,



Rep. Dean Arp



Rep. Mark Brody



Sen. Ted Alexander

*Rep. Amber M. Baker, PhD*



Rep. Mike Clampitt



Sen. Deanna Ballard



Rep. John Bell



Rep. Dudley Greene



Sen. Phil Berger



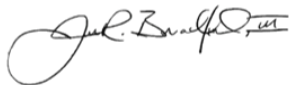
Rep. Jamie Boles



Rep. Kyle Hall



Sen. Danny Britt



Rep. John Bradford



Rep. Bobby Hanig



Sen. Kevin Corbin



Rep. William Brisson



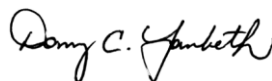
Rep. John Hardister



Sen. David Craven



Rep. Kelly Hastings



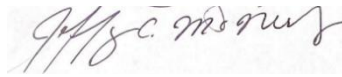
Rep. Donny Lambeth



Sen. Amy Galey



Rep. Chris Humphrey



Rep. Jeff McNeely



Sen. Warren Daniel



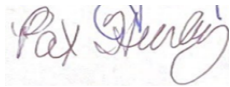
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Sen. Carl Ford



Rep. Pat Hurley



Rep. Tim Moffitt



Sen. Ralph Hise



Rep. Jake Johnson




Rep. Erin Pare



Sen. Brent Jackson



Rep. Brenden Jones



Rep. Howard Penny



Sen. Steve Jarvis



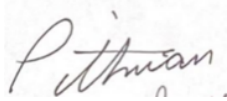
Rep. Keith Kidwell



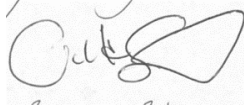
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Sen. Todd Johnson



Rep. Larry Pittman



Rep. Carson Smith



Sen. Joyce Krawiec

*Mark Pless*

Rep. Mark Pless



Rep. Sarah Stevens



Sen. Michael Lee

*Larry W. Potts*

Rep. Larry Potts

*Larry C. Strickland*

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*Rep. Dennis Riddell*

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Rep. John Szoka



Sen. Paul Newton

*Jason R. Saine*

Rep. Jason Saine

*John A. Torbett*

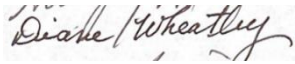
Rep. John Torbett



Sen. Vickie Sawyer



Rep. Phil Shepard



Rep. Diane Wheatley



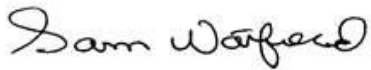
Sen. Bob Steinburg



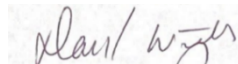
Rep. Steve Tyson



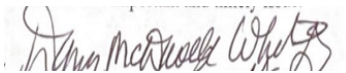
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