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December 9, 2025

Martin J. Walsh
Executive Director
National Hockey League Players Association
10 Bay Street, Suite 1200
Toronto, ON M5J 2R8

Dear Mr. Walsh:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is writing to understand the apparent rise in sports betting misconduct rocking college and professional sports and to determine if any legal reforms are needed to protect athletes. Recent instances highlight the alarming rise in proprietary information sharing to benefit certain gamblers. These actions eviscerate the integrity of sports and hurt honest, law-abiding athletes. The Committee understands the important role of players' associations in educating individuals on illegal sports betting practices and seeks to understand how you can better ensure proper conduct among players to safeguard free and fair competition. The Committee wants to hear what the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) is doing to strengthen the integrity of sports betting by limiting future risks of insider information sharing.

In 2019, the first full year following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling allowing states to legalize sports betting, the amount wagered was approximately 13.1 billion.[1] In 2024, that number increased to nearly $150 billion.[2] As opinion writer Max Boot wrote on November 16, "With that much gambling money sloshing around sports, scandals are sure to follow."[3] It has. The Committee notes the following recent examples.

On October 23, former Miami Heat player Terry Rozier and Damon Jones, a former player and assistant coach for the Cleveland Cavaliers respectively, were arrested for using proprietary National Basketball Association (NBA) information to place sports bets illegally. ESPN reported that gamblers used the information provided by Mr. Rozier to bet on seven NBA games

[1] Murphy v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, 584 U.S. 453 (2018); Eric Ramsey, *US Sports Betting Revenue and Handle*, LSR, Nov. 17, 2025, https://www.legalsportsreport.com/sports-betting-states/revenue/.
[2] Brandon Gustafson, *2024: A Year of Growth for Sports Betting Revenue*, CBS SPORTS, Mar. 28. 2025, https://www.cbssports.com/betting/news/2024-a-year-of-growth-for-sports-betting-revenue/.
[3] Max Boot, *I'm A Huge Sports Fan. Gambling, Especially Prop Bets, Is Ruining the Fun*, WASH. POST, Nov 16, 2025, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/11/16/sports-betting-prop-bets-baseball-football-basketball/.

throughout 2023 and 2024.[4] Mr. Jones, who worked with LeBron James at the Los Angeles Lakers, reportedly shared information with gamblers about Mr. James' playing status. Mr. Jones also allegedly provided information to a gambler about another Lakers' player after a trainer revealed the athlete would play injured. While Mr. Jones was not a staff member of the Lakers, he had access to team-only spaces throughout the 2022-2023 season. Of this matter, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel said, "Let's not mince words. This is the insider trading saga for the NBA."[5]

Additionally, two Cleveland Guardians pitchers, Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz, were indicted on November 9 for sharing information with betters about which pitches they would throw.[6] Both pitchers have denied the charges and are due back in court January 15 with jury selection to tentatively begin May 4.[7]

In light of these and other similar scandals, the Committee seeks information from the NHLPA to understand what steps it is taking to ensure the athletes it serves are protected from these unethical actions. By no later than January 31, 2026, the Committee kindly requests that the NHLPA provide information on what actions it has taken or plans to take to curtail players from using proprietary information to skew sports betting.

The Committee has jurisdiction over labor-related matters including those in professional sports, and it "shall review and study on a continuing basis the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs under its jurisdiction" as set forth in House Rule X.[8] The subject of this letter is within the Committee's jurisdiction and is a "subject on which legislation 'could be had.'"[9] If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at 202-225-4527. Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tim Walberg
Chairman

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[4] David Purdum, *Chauncey Billups, Terry Rozier, Arrested in Gambling Inquiries*, ESPN, Oct. 23, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/46695228/sources-terry-rozier-arrested-part-gambling-inquiry.
[5] *Id.*
[6] Dayn Perry, *MLB Betting Scandal: Guardians Pitchers Emmanuel Clase, Luis L. Ortiz Plead Not Guilty in Pitch-Rigging Scheme*, CBS SPORTS, Nov. 13, 2025, https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/news/mlb-betting-scandal-emmanuel-clase-luis-l-ortiz-pitch-rigging-doj-indictment/.
[7] Philip Marcelo, *Cleveland Guardians Pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz Face May Trail Date in Gambling Case*, AP, Dec. 3, 2025, https://apnews.com/article/mlb-baseball-gambling-ortiz-clase-6b5a543e1d8e5f4e3fc8ee7d9413983e.
[8] RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RULE X, cl. 1(e)(6), 2(c) (119th Cong.) (2025); RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE, Rule 3(a) (119th Cong.) (2025) (Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions has jurisdiction over ERISA), https://docs.house.gov/meetings/ED/ED00/20250115/117778/HMTG-119-ED00-20250115-SD002.pdf.
[9] *See* Trump v. Mazars USA, 591 U.S. 848, 863 (2020) (internal citations omitted).