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Concerned Montana Citizens

I represent the citizens of Montana who agree on having regular drug tests during high school sports. We support the idea of having drug tests several times each season for any sport of both boys and girls throughout the high schools of Montana. We will prevent kids from playing sports while taking drugs

On June 26, 1995, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Vernonia Sch. Dist. 47J v. Acton* that middle-school and high-school athletes can be required to submit to suspicionless drug tests as a condition of athletic participation. This decision removed a major constitutional roadblock to the adoption of such programs nationwide. Six months after the ruling, only one percent of the country's 16,000 public high schools have implemented random drug testing programs. The drug testing program was ruled to be in violation of the constitution because student athletes' privacy rights outweighed the government interest in reducing the dangers of drug use.

Drug testing in athletics is usually intended to check for substances that could either provide an unfair advantage over those who do not use them or contribute to problems in the individual's life, for example impaired athletic performance. Usually athletes who use drugs are healthy and are not experiencing significant problems because of drug use. For some athletes, their superior physical abilities may mask any decline in performance. These factors may make detecting drug use difficult. The threat of positive detection and the resulting consequences may prevent some individuals from using these substances. Drug testing may also be a means of determining whether or not individuals are eligible to receive awards for a performance or to participate in future activities. Some programs also use drug testing to ensure that an athlete remains free of the use of drugs after returning from a treatment program or after having been previously found to be using illegal drugs.

As explained in the above paragraph, there are many benefits of having random drug testing in Montana high school athletics. The main reason is so that we can protect the youth of today and coming generations. I support having random drug tests for the high schools throughout Montana.