

★ USTA
TENNIS & EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

BUILDING LIVES THROUGH TENNIS AND EDUCATION

October 29, 2004

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The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader, United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist and Senator Wyden:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the USTA Tennis & Education Foundation, to express our support for the Childhood Obesity Reduction Act you introduced earlier this year. As an organization that promotes the value of tennis as a life-long sport and as part of a healthy lifestyle, we thought you might be interested in learning about a new national program, called "Aces for Kids."

"Aces for Kids" seeks to establish tennis programs in urban and rural areas so that youths have the opportunity to learn the sport of tennis and enjoy the many benefits it brings: self confidence, discipline, exposure to new places and experiences, and a healthy lifestyle. The program will provide at risk youth in rural and urban areas with positive role models who will teach life skills in combination with nutritional, health, and conditioning instruction to help prevent obesity and other unhealthy behaviors such as substance abuse. Introducing the sport of tennis to disadvantaged youths, who may not otherwise have a chance to play, can have long-term positive impacts on the health of all participants. As a sport that can be played at all ages, tennis is an outstanding activity for lifelong health.

The mission of "Aces for Kids" corresponds directly with the intent of the Childhood Obesity Reduction Act, and we would like to see the Congress pass this bill in the near future. By working together on both the federal and local levels, we can address the overwhelming problem of childhood obesity. Through education and physical activity, we can help children of all ages to live long and healthy lives.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce the "Aces for Kids" program to you. The USTA appreciates all you do for your country and especially your efforts to battle the obesity epidemic we are experiencing. Please feel free to contact me directly whenever we may be of any assistance to your cause.

Sincerely,



Pam Shriver



Karen Martin-Eliezer

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