



ROAD RUNNERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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March 15, 2021

Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
California State Assembly
State Capitol – Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Ms. Quirk-Silva,

I am writing on behalf of the 150 running organization members that the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) represents in the State of California. Prior to the pandemic, our members were safely seeing over 500,000 runners annually cross finish lines throughout the state. Many of our member organizations have been in operation for over 40-years. In fact, our members have long prided themselves as being outstanding operators in the event management industry by following clearly stated safe event management guidelines, which are utilized nationwide.

As events are starting to occur throughout the country, our members have worked closely with state and local governments from Maine to now California and have outlined safe operating conditions, which allows for the return to safe, in-person event participation. Examples of safe event operating guidelines in accordance with CDC guidelines have been developed around the country and can be utilized by the State of California.

It is imperative that your agency works with the California Coalition of Endurance Sports and its supporting organizations to develop reasonable plans and timeframes that will allow for the return of safe, in-person participation in running events. By developing a plan and a clear operating timeline, event organizers will be able to plan and implement events that can help address the significant loss of economic benefit following event shutdowns in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, organized running/endurance events play a significant role in getting and keeping people active in our society. By working with event organizers and running clubs within your state, you can be a part of keeping your communities healthy and active through movement. Science is leaning towards the fact that the ongoing obesity and inactivity crisis in the U.S. has played a very serious negative role in Covid-19 outcomes¹. Using science as a guide, providing for safe, organized physical activity opportunities for healthy populations is more likely going to keep them healthy than pose a health risk.

Sincerely,

Jean Knaack
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/obesity-and-covid-19.html>