Good afternoon Honorable Senator Samuel Carrion and other Distinguished Members of the Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks & Recreation, members of the 34th Legislature, fellow testifiers, and our listening audience. My name is Lucille Hobson, President of the St. Croix Interscholastic Athletic Association (SCIAA), and I am very appreciative of the opportunity to testify on behalf of the St. Croix Interscholastic Athletic Association.

The SCIAA is a voluntary organization composed of 4000 plus athletes from approximately 20 public, private, parochial and homeschooled schools. It strives to promote good sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit among its member schools. It endeavors to maintain high standards so that each student athlete competing in each school is on the same basis. In the field of athletics, its interest is the safety of the participants; it is on this principle that its athletic rules are based.

The SCIAA operates under a Constitution and By-Laws, which outlines the scope and purpose of the Association. It contains the standards of eligibility to be met by the student athletes for attaining the privilege of participation in interschool contests, and rules controlling the participation among schools. By adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws through its membership, member schools have by their initiative acted to operate and discipline their interscholastic activities and contests.

Schools are divided in classification according to grade levels so that schools will have an opportunity to compete for honors among schools of their own level. The schools are divided into four levels: Elementary, Middle School, Junior High and High School.

The SCIAA provides services to its member schools in the organization and administration of District and Territorial events in the following: BOYS: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Tennis, Track, Soccer (coed) & Volleyball - GIRLS: Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Softball, Tennis, Track & Volleyball.

The SCIAA sets standards for the registration, training, and evaluation of officials in all competitive activities. Rulebooks are distributed and rules clinics for coaches and officials are held.
throughout the district by SCIAA-trained instructors. The SCIAA is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations - an organization of State High School Associations united to solve problems common to such organizations and to secure the benefit of cooperative research and action.

There is a direct correlation between lack of involvement in extracurricular activities and increased criminal behavior. Therefore, if the VI Government were to channel funds into sports and other positive programs that keep our students engaged and disciplined, there would be less criminal activity in our territory.

It is evident from my testimony, that interscholastic sports is alive and well in the territory. We implore the 34th Legislature to increase funding for sporting activities. Sports are critical to the development of sound minds and bodies. They are positive outlets for our youth. I am sure that you will agree that it is more beneficial to our community to infuse funds into these programs at the onset than to infuse funds into our juvenile detention centers and adult correctional facilities at the tail end.

Thank you for this opportunity to represent the St. Croix Interscholastic Athletic Association and sports in the District of St. Croix this afternoon.