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WITH URGING FROM PLAYERS COALITION, GOVERNOR NEWSOM PASSES THE CALIFORNIA RACIAL JUSTICE ACT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- Oct. 1, 2020 -- Yesterday, Governor Newsom signed AB 2542, the California Racial Justice Act, into law. Players Coalition supporters **Juan Archuleta** (MMA), **Sebastian Joseph-Day** (Los Angeles Rams), **Torry Holt** (NFL Legends Community), **Mark-Anthony Kaye** (LAFC) and **Tyson Ross** (MLB) advocated for the bill, which requires new trials or sentencing hearings for those whose cases were impacted by racism. The players penned an [op-ed](#) about the importance of the bill and supported it on social media as the bill passed through the Senate, Assembly. They continued to urge the Governor to sign once the bill was placed on his desk for signature.

Prior to the passage of the Racial Justice Act, the legal system tolerated racism as a cost of doing business. Even when someone proved that racism infected the way they were charged, tried, or sentenced, they had a difficult time having their convictions and sentences overturned because of legal barriers. Passing the California Racial Justice Act changes that by eliminating the requirement that the person convicted show that racism also impacted the outcome of their case.

“Racism is pervasive in every aspect of our legal system, but California’s Racial Justice Act roots out racism at its core, giving people a new trial when their cases are infected with racism. This is justice,” said Mark-Anthony Kaye, Players Coalition supporter and midfielder for Los Angeles FC on [Twitter](#).

Tyson Ross, Players Coalition supporter and MLB pitcher, [added](#), “Racism does not belong in society and it definitely does not belong in our courts.”

The California Racial Justice Act allows a person to request a new trial or sentencing if:

- Lawyers, judges, police, or jurors exhibited explicit bias against the defendant on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin;
- Someone exhibited bias at trial, such as when a prosecutor compares the person on trial to an animal during closing argument or implies that the accused is dangerous because of race;

- There are disparities in charging, such as where the individual was charged with an offense that is more serious or punished more severely than those filed against similarly situated white individuals;
- There existed disparities in sentencing, where Black and brown people receive longer sentences than similarly situated people of a different race.

Support of the California Racial Justice Act is one of many calls to action Players Coalition members have sent to elected officials to reform the criminal justice system. Players Coalition has written to Congress urging the end to Qualified Immunity; submitted written testimony to the Ohio state legislature urging the passage of SB 256, which would end juvenile life without parole; and partnered with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee urging for the passage of HR 40, which would establish a commission to study reparation proposals for African Americans.

About Players Coalition

Players Coalition is structured as an independent 501(c)(3) (charity) and 501(c)(4) (advocacy) organization, working with professional athletes, coaches and owners across leagues to improve social justice and racial equality in our country.

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