Debra LaPrevotte, Senior Investigator, the Sentry; former Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, International Corruption Unit, FBI-HQ –

Chairman Cardin, Co-Chairman Cohen, esteemed colleagues. It is a privilege to testify today on how the FBI and other US law enforcement agencies may approach investigation of Rodchenkov Act crimes as part of broader corruption and kleptocracy investigations.

Athletic achievement should be driven by the healthy spirit of competition, but most competitive sports are driven by profit. Sport is a multibillion-dollar industry, and countries, teams, sponsors, coaches, and criminal networks seek ways to capitalize on those profits. Like most of the crimes I've investigated, it's often all about the money. Investigators around the globe need to follow the money, identify the criminal networks, and expose those who manipulate the playing field through the use of doping and performance enhancing drugs.

As we approach the Olympics games in Tokyo, the Rodchenkov Act shines a brighter light on those involved in state sponsored doping, and those willing to cheat to win.

It's a global problem. The US sports market is valued at \$500 billion dollars. Individual US baseball, football and basketball teams are valued at \$5 billion dollars, which is more than the GDP of 30 countries. Top European soccer teams are valued at between \$3-\$5 billion dollars. One of India's top cricket teams is valued at \$6.8 billion.

The pressure on coaches to win and generate revenues can result in decisions to turn to doping and performance enhancing drugs. Sponsors motivated by greater financial rewards associated with greater exposure can encourage, or turn a blind eye to criminal activity. Add sports betting, endorsements, concessions, and marketing to the mix and the profits are even greater. For those involved in exercise biochemistry and drug manufacturing, the profits can seem worth the risk. At the Sochi Olympics, and numerous previous Olympic games, we witnessed the effects of state sponsored doping efforts.

The allure of performance enhancing drugs and doping to maximize profits, power and prestige is enormous. This opens the door to corruption and this is where the FBI and other law enforcement agencies can lead the effort to fight these corrupt networks. Investigating organized doping schemes is very similar to investigating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The Rodchenkov Act, like the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, allows the US to take the lead role in doing the right thing and promotes a fair and even playing field, in this case, both literally and figuratively.

Many fraud schemes share the same M.O. of criminal conduct. Those behind large scale doping schemes will likely violate bribery, money laundering, wire fraud, extortion, and other RICO and FDA statutes. Organized crime networks are involved in doping, and the manufacturing of performance enhancing drugs.

The FBI recently launched the Integrity in Sport and Gaming Program. This effort will dedicate agents, and intelligence and financial analysts to investigate the criminal aspects of doping as well as match-fixing, and gambling related crimes. This program is an excellent opportunity for the US to work with our foreign partners to fight corruption in sport.

In many cases, those partners are already hard at work. In 2019, Interpol, led by Italian and Greek investigators, conducted Operation Viribus. This effort involved 33 countries and was a massive crackdown on trafficking in doping materials. This investigation dismantled 17 organized crime groups, led to 234 arrests and closed nine underground labs. This case identified almost 1,000 people involved in the production, commerce, or use of doping products.

The Anti-Crime Commission in Australia has also been investigating the role of organized crime in performance enhancing drugs (PEDs), including sourcing and supplying next generation PEDs. There are other investigations around the globe into doping and the role played by coaches, team physicians, and franchise owners.

In the same way that the Global Magnitsky Act brought attention to fighting corruption and imposing accountability in an important and direct new way--one that is now being replicated in jurisdictions around the globe and that organizations like ours, at The Sentry, are able to support through our work--so too can the Rodchenkov Act bring more focused attention to how doping can be effectively targeted.

The young athletes of tomorrow who are about to be inspired by what they see at the Olympics deserve to be able to focus on what they need to do on the field to improve and compete at the highest levels, rather than feel that their chance will be stolen because the desire for profits will motivate others to cheat their way to the top.

Winning without honor is not winning.