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171ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

Majority Leader

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July 31, 2020

Francis M. Majikes
President, Board of Directors
Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association
550 Gettysburg Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Dear Mr. Majikes:

We write today to ask that you reverse or modify your decision to not allow spectators at Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)-sanctioned events during the fall athletic season.

As you know, interscholastic sports provide a unique opportunity for students to socialize, learn the importance of teamwork, and gain worldly experience outside of the classroom. In this regard, we are glad to see the PIAA pave the way for sports to open this fall.

However, without spectators—especially parents—able to watch their children and community members succeed on the field, something of the experience is lost. It should come as no surprise to you that parents in all of our districts are irate and disheartened by your recent policy decision that precludes them from watching their children in-person during the fall athletic period.

The parents of these students have supported their children and, often times, the school sports team in various ways during the student's journey and there is a deep satisfaction from the ability to watch their loved ones compete in something they value.

While we understand that you feel constrained by the Governor's orders in this regard, we wish to remind you that PIAA is an independent agency that has the ability to think outside the box to come up with a commonsense solution that can allow both sports to proceed as normal while, at a minimum, allowing parents of students to watch their loved ones in person.

At a time when folks have had the five-month long experience of social distancing and protecting themselves and others from a contagious virus, it makes no sense that people might be less safe sitting in the football stands or around the high school track at a soccer match, with appropriate modifications, than in the aisles of their local mega retailer.

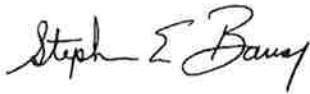
It has been reported that the PIAA remains open to changing its current no spectator policy at its August 26, 2020 meeting.

We would hope that if no accommodation can be made for the public at large to attend PIAA events, that at least some modification be made for parents of students.

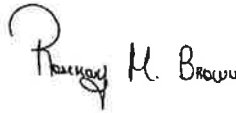
Sincerely,



Kerry Benninghoff
Majority Leader
171st Legislative District



Stephen Barrar
160th Legislative District



Rosemary Brown
189th Legislative District



Eric Davanzo
58th Legislative District



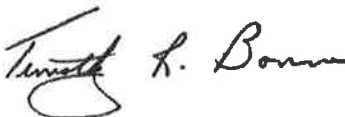
Aaron Bernstine
10th Legislative District



Martin Causer
Majority Policy Chair
67th Legislative District



Gary Day
187th Legislative District



Timothy Bonner
8th Legislative District



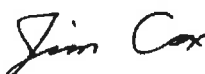
Bud Cook
49th Legislative District



Torren Ecker
193rd Legislative District



Stephanie Borowicz
76th Legislative District



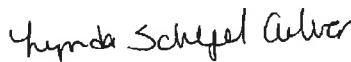
Jim Cox
129th Legislative District



Joe Emrick
137th Legislative District



Robert Brooks
54th Legislative District



Lynda Culver
108th Legislative District



Mindy Fee
37th Legislative District

Jonathan Fritz
111th Legislative District

Doyle Heffley
122nd Legislative District

Mark Keller
86th Legislative District

Valerie Gaydos
44th Legislative District

Susan Helm
104th Legislative District

Kate Klunk
169th Legislative District

Mark Gillen
128th Legislative District

Tim Hennessey
26th Legislative District

Jerry Knowles
124th Legislative District

Barbara Gleim
199th Legislative District

David Hickernell
98th Legislative District

Ryan Mackenzie
134th Legislative District

James Gregory
80th Legislative District

Rich Irvin
81st Legislative District

Kurt Masser
Majority Caucus Administrator
107th Legislative District

Keith Greiner
43rd Legislative District

R. Lee James
64th Legislative District

Daryl Metcalfe
12th Legislative District

Seth Grove
196th Legislative District

Mike Jones
93rd Legislative District

Natalie Mihalek
40th Legislative District

Marcia Hahn
138th Legislative District

Rob Kauffman
89th Legislative District

Lori Mizgorski
30th Legislative District



Marci Mustello
11th Legislative District



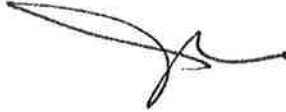
Jack Rader
176th Legislative District



Louis Schmitt, Jr.
79th Legislative District



Eric Nelson
57th Legislative District



James Rigby
71st Legislative District



Craig Staats
145th Legislative District



Timothy O'Neal
48th Legislative District



Brad Roae
6th Legislative District



James Struzzi II
62nd Legislative District



Donna Oberlander
Majority Policy Chair
63rd Legislative District



Greg Rothman
87th Legislative District



Kathleen Tomlinson
18th Legislative District



Jason Ortitay
46th Legislative District



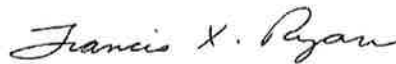
David Rowe
85th Legislative District



Tarah Toohil
116th Legislative District



Clinton Owlett
68th Legislative District



Francis X. Ryan
101st Legislative District



Jeff Wheeland
83rd Legislative District



Tina Pickett
110th Legislative District



Tommy Sankey
73rd Legislative District



David Zimmerman
99th Legislative District



Todd Polinchock
144th Legislative District



Paul Schemmel
90th Legislative District