

KERRY A. BENNINGHOFF
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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

Majority Leader

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August 7, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Majikes:

Like you, I was tremendously disappointed in Governor Tom Wolf's intimidating "recommendation" to cancel all recreational and interscholastic athletics until January of 2021. I am writing to remind you that this is not a mandate, and I am asking you to stand firm on your previous decision to continue with PIAA-sanctioned events during the fall athletic season. In taking this stand for our young people, you would have my support and the support of the majority of the General Assembly.

Our children need the opportunities fall sports provide to learn important life lessons in teamwork, ethics, and integrity. The social, mental, and emotional experiences athletics provide are irreplaceable. Athletics are not just for fun, they are critical to student learning, personal growth, and the future success of our children.

I understand that you feel enormous pressure from Gov. Wolf, who has often been punitive against those who have gone against him, and constrained by his recommendation. However, I want to remind you that what he laid out is, in fact, a recommendation, not a new law or executive mandate. PIAA is an independent association, and I, along with many Pennsylvanians, trust your previous common sense decision to allow fall activities to safely continue so students can have even a degree of normalcy that they so desperately need and deserve.

We can do this. As a society, we have had nearly six months of experience practicing social distancing and virus mitigation. With appropriate modifications, fall sports can continue safely.

I know the pressure from the governor is great, but parents, students and the House Republican Caucus stand with you should you choose to stand by your previous decision. I urge you to take an independent stand for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry A. Benninghoff".

KERRY A. BENNINGHOFF
Majority Leader
171st Legislative District