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Memorandum

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Jeff Pyle
60th Legislative District *JPP...*

RE: Proposed Legislation - Amending the Public School Code of 1949
Restructure Interscholastic Athletic Championships

DATE: January 21, 2011

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of our educational system. These athletic opportunities provide our students with a chance to excel not only in the classroom, but also outside of the classroom. Many times, athletics help students build self-esteem and self-worth. As such, it is of the utmost importance that interscholastic athletics be fair and equal.

I will be introducing legislation that takes a step that several other states have taken or are exploring, including Tennessee and New Jersey. My legislation stipulates that private schools that offer scholarships or tuition assistance to students shall not be permitted to play in interscholastic athletic championships against public schools and private schools that do not provide scholarships or tuition assistance.

In order to accomplish this, my legislation will require the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) to create two divisions within their organization. Division I shall consist of public schools and private schools that do not offer scholarships or tuition assistance to students. Division II shall consist of private schools that offer scholarships or tuition assistance to students.

Nothing in my legislation shall be construed to require PIAA to restructure our current classification system that is based on enrollment. On the contrary, these classifications can still exist within the two divisions. I will point out that schools in the two divisions can still compete against each other during regular season and post season play. PIAA is given the full authority to reorganize regular season play, playoffs and championship rules to meet the requirements of this legislation.