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To: All House Members

From: Representative Curt Sonney 
4th Legislative District

Subject: **Co-Sponsorship-** (PIAA) Divisions for Championships

Date: October 5, 2011

In the near future I will be introducing legislation that aims to ensure fair play among competitive high school sports throughout the Commonwealth. 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 playoffs and championship rules to meet the requirements of this legislation.

As the annual playoffs and championships are an integral part of the Pennsylvania interscholastic athletic season, it is my intent that the two divisions will contest their respective playoff and championship matches concurrently.

It is my goal to create the most level playing field for all of our student athletes, and I believe my legislation accomplishes that when it comes to interscholastic athletic championships.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Christine Crone in my Harrisburg office at; ccrone@pahousegop.com or 717-783-9087. Thank you.