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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

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**COSPONSOR MEMO #36**

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Senator Jane C. Orie  
Senator Joe Scarnati  
**DATE:** January 3, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Orie'.

JAN 04 2011

**SUBJECT: PIAA: Banning Discrimination Against Nonpublic School Students**

As members of the PA Athletic Oversight Committee, we will be introducing legislation amending the Public School Code prohibiting the PIAA from discriminating against nonpublic school students. Our legislation would amend the School Code, Article XVI-A (Interscholastic Athletics), Section 1604-A (13):

*(13) Establish a policy, including a mechanism for enforcement, requiring that persons involved in interscholastic athletics be provided equality of opportunity and treatment without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin or, ethnic background or attendance at a private school.*

The PIAA has been in operation for nearly one hundred years. Nonpublic schools were not able to participate and become full members until the early 1970's. Article XVI-A of the School Code, adopted in 2000, required, for the first time, that the PIAA include a nonpublic school representative on its governing board. Although nonpublic schools enroll 13% of the students in PA, the nonpublic school community only has one voting representative out of the 31 members of the PIAA board. There are also currently 12 separate districts within the PIAA, each of which is governed by a district committee. Neither the School Code nor the PIAA Constitution requires those district committees to include any nonpublic school representatives.

There is currently no provision in law that protects the nonpublic school minority from being overwhelmed on any matter in which there is a public-nonpublic divide. As such, the nonpublic school community is seeking statutory assurance that the interests of nonpublic school students will be protected within a legislatively-empowered organization in which they are a substantial but permanent minority.

Please join us in cosponsoring this legislation by contacting Monica Armstrong in Sen. Orie's Office at 787-6538 or by email at [marmstrong@pasen.gov](mailto:marmstrong@pasen.gov).

JCO/ns