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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Jerry Knowles *JK*
DATE: September 27, 2012
RE: Repeal of Sports Gender Reporting Mandate

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation to remove Article XVI-C from the Public School Code of 1949, which provides for disclosure of interscholastic athletic opportunities by our public school entities.

This legislation is being introduced in response to concerns raised by school districts who view the reporting of interscholastic athletic opportunities as required by the Public School Code as an unfunded mandate. Additionally, concerns have been raised that the provisions of Title IX, which is federal law, are not applicable to local school districts, meaning this state law exceeds the requirements of federal law at the expense of our school districts.

Decisions regarding sports program offerings and facilities are made at the local level and are intended to provide opportunities for all students. These decisions are made based on overall interest in having a specific sports program as well as the financial ability of a district to provide such programs. Since school districts are not required to offer interscholastic athletics programs by state or federal law, they should not be mandated to provide reporting regarding programs that are voluntarily offered at the local level.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Tracy Baker in my office via e-mail at tbaker@pahousegop.com or (717) 787-9029. NOTE: Be prepared to hear from your school districts, if they have not already contacted you.

JK/tb