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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2020

TO: All House Members

FROM: State Representative Austin Davis

SUBJECT: School Sports Attendance Limits during COVID-19

During this unprecedented year we have faced many challenges that were brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our schools and communities have sacrificed tremendously and now that many schools have opened, in various formats, students are participating in sports and other extracurricular activities.

Safety, of course, is the first priority, however when it comes to sports students need to have their families there for support and a sense of normalcy. The question of allowing additional spectators at school sporting events has been a highly debated topic, therefore I will be introducing legislation that will find middle ground between the Governors recommended limits for spectators at school sporting events and the alternative, unsafely filling stadiums and auditoriums and putting our children and communities at greater risk of spreading or contracting COVID-19.

Specifically, my legislation will require school districts to vote on a occupancy limit plan for school sporting and other extracurricular events and submit the approved plans to PDE. The plans may set the occupancy for indoors and outdoors events at 50% of the facilities occupancy limits and detail the manner in which the district will ensure that all CDC and DOH guidelines will be adhered to in regard to face masks and social distancing for example.

By providing clear guidelines and expectations to districts regarding attendance at school events during this time, we are doing our part to ensure the health and safety of our schools and communities while ensuring student athletes have the support needed during these activities.

Please consider co-sponsoring this important health and safety measure.