

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 27, 2020

Governor JB Pritzker  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Governor Pritzker,

We write to you today requesting clarity and additional guidance regarding the continuation of high school sports throughout the State of Illinois. On June 26, when the State of Illinois entered its Phase 4 Reopening plan, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) released their Phase 4 Return to Play Plan in accordance with Illinois' Phase 4 Reopening which permitted IHSA member schools to begin use of "voluntary summer contact days." Since then, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and your office determined that some aspects of the Phase 4 Return to Play Plan released by IHSA and originally approved by IDPH were actually in conflict with IDPH directives for schools returning to learn.

We recognize it can be problematic to have conflicts between the IDPH's return to learning plans for schools and the IHSA's Return to Play Plan. However, since the IHSA's announcement on July 14th that they will now be deferring to your office, IDPH and ISBE, this has created confusion and uncertainty for schools and coaches who are hoping to resume high school sports in the fall.

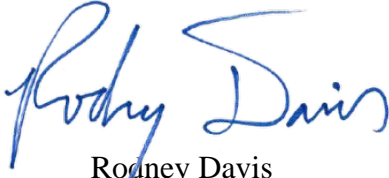
High school sports are a vitally important part of these students' academic careers and for some, sports are an integral part to their mental health. For many students, their high school coaches have a strong parental role in their lives and interactions with these coaches lead to a more positive life.

Our request today is for your office, in conjunction with IDPH, ISBE and IHSA to put out additional guidance that clarifies what high school coaches can and cannot do at their practices while also providing a comprehensive plan including specific criteria schools must meet in order to return to regularly scheduled play. Additionally, like previous requests to use a regional approach when reopening the state, we request a regional approach to this plan as well.

Canceling sports in highly populous regions that have significant amounts of COVID-19 cases should not cause sports to be canceled in regions on the other side of the state that are much less populous and that have far fewer COVID-19 cases.

While it's conceivable that fall contact sports like football may not happen this year, it's important to communicate developments in real time to our schools and coaches so that they can plan accordingly. Thank you for considering this request and we look forward to your timely response.

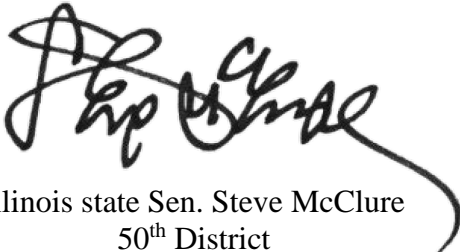
Sincerely,



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



Illinois state Sen. Steve McClure  
50<sup>th</sup> District



Illinois state Rep. Tim Butler  
87<sup>th</sup> District



Illinois state Rep. Mike Murphy  
99<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA)