

January 17, 2023

Honorable Rep. Adam Thomas

Kansas House Committee (Education Committee)

HB2003 KSHSAA Modifications

Honorable Representative Thomas:

My name is Josie Hannah, and I am in my senior year at Basehor-Linwood High School. In my four years, I have seen classmates throw themselves into practice, giving up all aspects of a social life, only to be devastated by a private school team full of future Division I athletes. In the 2021 football season, during my junior year, the school's football team went 9-1. It was a team full of 22 seniors, most of them having played together since elementary school, and they had a fantastic season, up until playoffs, when we went 7-35 against St. James, a private school in Lenexa. To talented athletes who can afford Top-Notch coaching in all aspects of the game, a playoff game against a public school proves to be no challenge at all.

Private schools have taken home nearly 40% of the KSHSAA regulated state championships. Considering private schools take up about 8% of competing schools, this puts public schools at a massive disadvantage. This bill intends that the State Activities Association can properly administer rules and regulations to even the playing field. Having been approved by the State Board of Education, we need to honor their request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josie Hannah".

Josie Hannah

Proponent for HB2003

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