

Dear Representative Tim Johnson,

My name is Leah Stallbaumer. I am an 8th grade student at Basehor-Linwood Middle School. I was given the opportunity to write to a legislator for my civic engagement assignment. I chose to write to you as my representative because of the proposed amendment to Section 5 of the Kansas Statute 72-7117. As a student athlete myself, I would like to voice my opinion on this subject seeing as I will be entering high school next year and intend to play volleyball. After researching the state volleyball champions from the past 17 years, I have found that in 15 of those years, or 88% of the time, the 5A volleyball state championships have been won by private schools. Only 3/32 (9%) of the schools in our classification are private schools, yet they are still winning state title after state title, further proving the unfairness of our current system.

Unlike Basehor, private schools have a tuition fee. This fee can drive away unmotivated students but can also keep away motivated ones. There is however an exception to the tuition fee which is an athletic scholarship, which they use to combine highly-motivated students with talented athletes, thus making the average student body of a private school very different from that of a public school. Private schools are not required to provide special education services, which leaves more room for student athletes. And, finally, there is the boundary issue. Private schools are not limited by a district boundary. This makes the pool of potential students open up to a 2.935 million population. That's roughly 367 times Basehor's population of 8,000.

I hope that this proposal can be pushed to a vote and that, if so, you can be in support of the Kansas multiplier and stand by our public schools. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that, with your support, we can make Kansas sports more equitable moving forward.

Your Constituent, Leah Stallbaumer.

Leah Stallbaumer

*Leah Stallbaumer
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