

January 18, 2023

RE: KSHSAA HB 2003

Dear Representative,

This letter is being written in regards to the KSHSAA private school multiplier. Please consider the potential ramifications HB 2003 could cause to those private schools who do not recruit for athletics and realize academics are more important than athletics.

The proposed Bill will be harmful for schools such as Sacred Heart Junior/Senior High School who do not recruit for athletics, but will be affected by the proposed multiplier due to the schools success in golf, tennis, debate, and scholars bowl. I do not believe the issue and complaints associated with private schools are aimed at, or are the primary focus of, these activities.

I do agree that a change needs to be made to make competition fair for all student-athletes, however the proposed Bill needs to be reconsidered the way it stands today. I believe the multiplier should be sport specific and not encompass all activities. For example, Sacred Heart has won I believe seven consecutive state golf championships and should be moved up a class (or two) as it will make their golf program better and will be fair with other KSHSAA schools. However, Sacred Heart's football program has had several losing seasons and struggle with getting kids to participate. Due to the lack of numbers, multiple Freshmen are needed to play on the varsity football team even though most are not physically ready to play at that level. Being forced to move up a class and play against teams with more numbers and depth provides a larger health risk to these kids.

In summary, our student-athletes who play football should not have to compete against larger schools due to the success in golf, girls tennis, debate, and scholars bowl. I appreciate your time and consideration regarding HB 2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Yohe", written in a cursive style.

Chris Yohe