

**9TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
TOM KILLION**

SENATE BOX 203009
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3009
717-787-4712
FAX 717-783-7490
TOLL FREE 1-888-9TH-DIST

4110 EDMONT AVENUE
BROOKHAVEN, PA 19015
610-447-3163
FAX 610-447-5848

780 E. MARKET STREET, SUITE 140
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
610-436-3320
FAX 610-436-6983



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

STATE GOVERNMENT, VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING & INSURANCE
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
CONSUMER PROTECTION &
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
URBAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING
MAJORITY POLICY

senatorkillion.com
tkillion@pasen.gov

September 14, 2020

Jeanne E. Casner, MPH, PMP
Chester County Health Director
601 Westtown Road
Suite 290
West Chester, PA, 19380-0990

Honorable Marian Moskowitz
Chester County Commissioners
313 West Market Street
Suite 6202
West Chester, PA 19380

Honorable Brian P. Zidek
Delaware County Council
Government Center
201 W. Front St.
Media, PA 19063

Dear Director Casner, Chairwoman Moskowitz and Chairman Zidek:

Now six months into challenges posed by COVID-19, it is clear we are well past a point-of-crisis. By all metrics, our Commonwealth and Chester and Delaware counties have the virus in check. As of the writing of this letter, 472 people are hospitalized across Pennsylvania, including 13 in Chester County and 14 in Delaware County, with COVID-19. The 463 hospitalizations statewide represent a more-than 80 percent decrease in hospitalizations from the peak of the pandemic in the spring. Given this marked decline and considering other factors, I strongly urge you to rescind your recommendation regarding school and youth sports.

Sports are much more than just recreational opportunities for children. They promote physical fitness, good mental health and social growth. Athletics provide a much-needed physical outlet for our young people. For those in high school, sports are often integral to students' higher education planning. Depriving our children of these opportunities is not a minor inconvenience for them and their families, but a major disruption with potential long range ramifications.

My decision to write you today was prompted by the hundreds of calls, emails and social media messages I have received in the last few weeks from parents frustrated by your recommendation to suspend school and youth games and competitions until 2021. As the father of two adult daughters, both of whom played sports, I concur with the assessment made by parents that the benefits of safely playing sports outweigh whatever risk that exists.

September 14, 2020
Page Two

In support of this request, I note there has been little-to-no evidence of athlete-to-athlete transmission in our region. State Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine has admitted she has used national data rather than information specific to Pennsylvania in issuing a similar statewide recommendation ([TribLive, 8/18/20](#)). In our region, Dr. David Damsker, Director of the Bucks County Health Department, noted last month, "We've seen very, very little spread on a team — I think maybe one case total of spread on a team," ([KYW NewsRadio, 8/14/20](#)). In the same story, Montgomery County Commissioner Val Arkoosh, a medical doctor and public health expert, "couldn't say whether or not there'd been any spread for contact through youth sports..."

Given all of these factors, I respectfully urge you to rescind your recommendation to halt school and youth sports until 2021. Let our kids enjoy a measure of normalcy. Let our children reap the physical, mental and emotional benefits of athletics.

Let our kids play.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Killion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the "T".

TOM KILLION
Senator, 9th Senatorial District