

CHANUTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENTS FIRST

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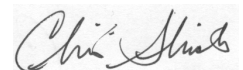
Dear Ms. Bremer,

On behalf of Chanute High School, I am reaching out to you regarding the upcoming hearing on the proposed KSHSAA Classification Multiplier. While I am unable to attend and testify in person, please accept this letter as testimony of Chanute High School's **support of the adoption** of Bill 2003-Authorizing the KSHSAA to establish a school classification system based on student attendance and other factors.

When casting our own ballot in June of 2022 on this issue, we at Chanute High School voted "YES" as we feel that passing of this proposal will not just benefit the student-athletes here at Chanute High School but student-athletes all across the great state of Kansas. As a KSHSAA member school that has witnessed first hand the inequity that exists in our current flawed classification system, we feel the passing of this bill is imperative to ensure the equality of Kansas sports moving forward.

As you are aware, public schools are mandated by statute to accept all students that live within their district boundaries while private schools are not restricted to geographical boundaries. We fully recognize that a student's household wealth has a direct impact on their access to resources. The tuition component alone offered by private schools results in an environment where a student's household income will likely have a direct impact on their ability to attend these schools resulting in a divide in resources such as training and development.

Classes 1A-4A all voted in favor of this proposal with Class 5A ending in a tie and Class 6A the only classification that voted against it. Not coincidentally, Class 6A is the only class in Kansas that does not currently have a private school in their classification. As is evidenced by the voting of school districts throughout the state, support for this proposal is widespread and overwhelming. We trust that the committee will take this into consideration when making their decision. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important decision.



Chris Shields