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Greetings Representative:

I am reaching out to you to share my concerns and opposition to House Bill 334. The amendment language approved in committee is set to prevent IHSA member high schools from adopting policies related to the eligibility of transfer students.

In the nearly 125-year history of the Illinois High School Association, member high schools, with specific guidance from their administrators, have established transfer eligibility limitations that sought to prevent students from transferring schools for athletic reasons. Students have been encouraged to start and finish their high school years with the curriculum approved by the local Board of Education or their local private school of choice. Member schools continue to have the freedom to amend by-laws to support education-based athletics conducted at schools for all students.

Passing HB 334 would eliminate transfer eligibility governance by member schools, creating significant complications for high schools in the state and an atmosphere of uncontained transfers by students. For example, if HB334 were to be adopted, a student could potentially lose in a post-season game and transfer to a winning schools' team they played prior to their next contest. I believe it has the potential to open a Pandoras Box that is the antithesis of the values of participation in high school sports that we promote.

I doubt you have been following what has occurred in Florida over the past year, but the legislators there have instituted radical and unprecedented changes to the Florida High School Athletic Association's transfer rules that are not only having a negative impact on high school athletics, but on school attendance as well.

I urge you to vote NO to HB 334 and keep the governance of high school sports in the hands of the educators who have studied and worked in education as their life's work. They have the best interest of all students in their purview and will continue to manage all rules and regulations of high school athletic and activity participation.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Chris Frasco
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