



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

January 14, 2021

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
2nd Floor, NYS Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Howard Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of the Department of Health
Empire Plaza, Corning Towner
State Street
Albany, New York 12203

Betty A. Rosa, Ed. D
Interim Commissioner of the State Education Department
New York State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Robert Zayas, Ph.D, Executive Director
NYS Public High School Athletic Association, Inc.
8 Airport Park Boulevard
Latham, NY 12110

Dear Governor Cuomo, Commissioner Zucker, Interim Commissioner Rosa,
and Executive Director Zayas:

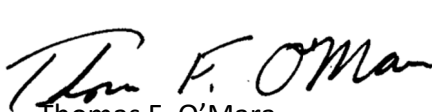
We are writing on behalf of constituents in the Southern Tier who request an update on the status of high school sports deemed "high risk" for the 2020-2021 sports season. We believe the students and families in our districts deserve to know, at the very least, what will become of their sport season.

Our student athletes and their families have been patiently waiting to hear of the state's decision since early December, when guidance was supposed to be provided. While some sports have been given approval, many athletes wait, uncertain of what is to come. These students have invested many years of discipline and training to maintain their physical fitness and to compete on behalf of their school districts and communities. For many, their involvement in sports is a critical part of what has made them attractive candidates for future colleges and scholarships. The continued hiatus puts all of this at risk.

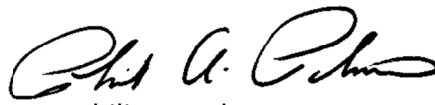
Given the fact that a number of sections and leagues moved and delayed the start of their sports seasons to January 2021, we highly encourage you to adopt a realistic, comprehensive, and evidence-based model which would allow all student athletes to safely resume their sport NOW. At this point, New York is a stand-out for the wrong reasons, as it is one of only seven states prohibiting sports such as basketball at the high school level, despite it being played safely with proper protocols throughout the country.

The Southern Tier has proven to be a leader in the state by having one of the lowest positivity rates through exercising the policies and procedures established by the Department of Health. Our student athletes ask for guidance from the state to allow all winter, fall and spring sports to start in the Southern Tier and throughout New York State. We know that doing so will provide an outlet and great enrichment to student athletes who patiently waited for their turn to play.

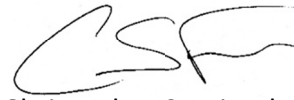
Sincerely,



Thomas F. O'Mara
NYS Senator
58th District



Philip A. Palmesano
Assemblyman
132nd District



Christopher S. Friend
Assemblyman
124th District