

SENATE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Cleo Fields
State Senator

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Standing Committees

Education, Chairman
Commerce, Consumer Protection
and International Affairs
Judiciary A
Retirement

July 6, 2020

Dr. Janet Pope, Executive Director
Louisiana School Boards Association
620 Florida Street, Suite 100
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Dear Dr. Pope,

I understand that BESE is holding a special meeting on July 14, presumably to adopt emergency rules concerning the reopening of schools in the time of COVID, as required by House Bill 59 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session.

I have requested the board to include a suspension of ALL athletic activities for this fall in any rules adopted regarding the reopening of schools for the coming school year. This suspension should include all activities of any kind that would include in-person student participation in a group setting, including conditioning, practice, and team meetings.

Currently, there are no BESE rules that address this matter. Therefore, I am requesting the Louisiana School Boards Association to reach out to all local school boards and superintendents to ask them to voluntarily suspend all fall athletic activities, until such time as the health and safety of our student athletes can be ensured.

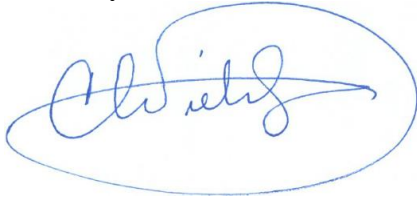
Despite the comprehensive guidance issued by the Department of Education and CDC guidelines, there are still instances of public school teams holding football practice and/or related activities. I do not believe that conditioning activities can be conducted safely, much less drills, practice, and games. There is simply too much close proximity involved to safely conduct these activities.

This issue is much too critical to leave these decisions to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, which is a private entity. It is our responsibility to ensure that the health and safety of our children is placed above any athletic endeavor at any time or place.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing it is essential that we do absolutely everything that can be done to **protect our children**.

I appreciate your organization's serious consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Fields', enclosed within a blue oval outline.

Cleo Fields, Chairman
Senate Committee on Education

cc: Mr. Michael Faulk, La. Association of School Superintendents
Ms. Sandy Holloway, President, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent of Education
Local school superintendents

Attachment: Letter to President Sandy Holloway
Senate Resolution 39, 2020 First Extraordinary Session