



JOSEPH D. MORELLE  
Assemblyman 132<sup>nd</sup> District  
Monroe County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN  
Committee on Tourism,  
Arts and Sports Development

CHAIRMAN  
Subcommittee on Manufacturing

COMMITTEES  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce & Industry  
Higher Education  
Local Governments  
Libraries & Education  
Technology

**DRAFT**

March 7, 2005

«Athr»

«Sport»

«School»

«Street\_Address»

«City», New York «Zip»

Dear Athletic Director:

As you know, I have introduced a bill in the New York State Assembly to reform the way in which the NYSPHSAA and its member sections determine entries for their state championship events. The purpose and intent of this legislation, A.2162, also known as the "Fairness In Competition Bill" has been largely misunderstood and misrepresented in some quarters by opponents of the bill.

As an athletic director, you know only too well that the number of schools within a section varies greatly from section to section. I am sure you recognize that, as a result, a student athlete's opportunity to compete at a state championship level is far different from section to section. I would hope you would agree that when we recognize something as fundamentally unfair to our youth as this is we have an obligation to try and fix it.

It is interesting to note that the NYSPHSAA, in all their statements and correspondence, does not take issue with the fact that the current system is fundamentally unfair. There is no argument from them or anyone else that defends the current system as being equitable nor are there arguments contradicting the legislation's policy objectives.

Instead people have chosen to attack the legislation with misleading arguments that appear to be more concerned with organizational convenience and prerogatives than looking out for the best interests of the kids.

Take for example the statement made by Kathryn Faber, President of the NYSPHSAA that the legislation would prevent "a school, league, section or committee *from present(ing)* future proposals to improve our programs and championships". The legislation neither says nor implies any such thing. This misrepresentation is disturbing to say the least.

Similarly, the statements made in the NYSPHSAA's suggested Sample Letter are equally disturbing. Rather than repeat the response to this Sample Letter already offered by the New York State Wrestling Coaches Association, I have enclosed it for your review. I hope you find it as thought provoking as I did.

Creating a fair system of athletic competition for high school students should be the goal of policy makers around the state. While other proposals may achieve this goal and I would be happy to consider alternative ideas, I will not compromise on our basic belief that a flawed system should be reformed.

I have said repeatedly and most recently in my February 1, 2005 letter to the executive director of the NYSPHSAA, I still remain hopeful that the NYSPHSAA will adopt a system where fair competition and the opportunity to compete will be the controlling factors. Such an action by the NYSPHSAA could make A.2162 unnecessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Morelle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JOSEPH D. MORELLE  
Chairman  
NYS Assembly Committee on Tourism,  
Arts and Sports Development