Patrick D. Bird, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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April 15, 2005

Honorable Brian Palmer, Chairperson – Committee of Education
S0885 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Honorable Edward Gaffney, Chairperson – Committee of Health Policy
S0585 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairpersons Palmer & Gaffney and Members of the Joint Committee:

Due to a previously scheduled commitment and our school schedules, our attendance at the co-committee meetings on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 is prohibitive.

Please accept this letter in support of HB 4118 in its present form. This bill establishes a baseline, which would require all school districts to pro-actively establish a policy and procedure to address the problem of steroid use by student athletes. Components of the bill also give school district authorities and law enforcement agencies the ability to deal with the distribution and/or possession of an illegal steroid on school property similar to how they can deal with narcotics.

It is unfortunate that national and state governments must address steroid use. Ideally, parents and young athletes should understand the dangers of using steroids and performance enhancers. However, some professional athletes, who are admired by young athletes, have failed to lead by positive example.

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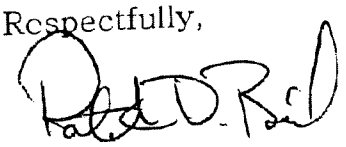
Any form of legislation that brings the issue of steroid use to the forefront and potentially saves the life a young teenager is good legislation.

In closing, if any member of the committees would like to speak to any of us, personally, please feel free to contact our school offices at 586-727-3565.

Respectfully,



Patrick D. Bird, Ph.D.
Superintendent

V. Keith Bartels
Assistant Principal of
Athletics & Student Services

Edward Delore
Teacher & Head
Baseball Coach

PDB/cjr

Cc: Representative Acciavatti