



Missouri State High School Activities Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: Feb. 4, 2026

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MSHSAA Legislative Update: Message from Dr. Jennifer Rukstad

COLUMBIA – MSHSAA Executive Director Dr. Jennifer Rukstad sent the following message to our constituents this morning.

“Today, MSHSAA is 100 years old! On Feb. 4, 1926, the superintendent's voted unanimously to approve the constitution, and our association was born. For a century, our member schools have governed their association. It is time to **fight** for the future of high school sports and activities in our state. If our 724 member schools want to retain their ownership and governance of their association, we must engage.

[PLEASE VIEW THIS IMPORTANT VIDEO MESSAGE FROM DR. JENNIFER RUKSTAD](#)

We will be sending frequent updates and requests as the process continues to unfold. For the time being, the message is simple: contact your lawmakers and oppose Senate Bill 863.

- [Senate Bill 863 Summary](#)
- [Senate Bill 863 Bill Language](#)

At this time, our focus is the Missouri Senate. You can find your senator(s) [by clicking this spreadsheet](#) and looking up your school district under the “County Code & Senators” tab.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Rukstad, Executive Director”

MSHSAA encourages media outlets to learn more about the bill and dive deeper into the claims being made about our association.

--MSHSAA--

“MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.”