



## **Representative Kent Smith**

Ohio House District 8

March 3, 2022

President Andrew Cox  
Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches  
Thomas Worthington High School  
300 W Dublin Granville Rd.  
Worthington, OH 43085

Dear President Andrew Cox:

I am in my 8th year representing the tremendous young athletes of Beachwood High School. I have had them join me on the Ohio House Floor more than once to celebrate their accomplishments. Some of those meetings are posted in the photo gallery on my official State Representative webpage. I have gotten to know these athletes and coaches and I believe them to be some of the finest people I have met in my 20 years of elected public service.

To that end, I must ask that you reconsider their disqualification in the Indoor State Track Championship this weekend. Their omission from the competition due to an administrative error which was committed without malice or disrespect is not, in my view, a sufficient justification to deny their participation. In short, a clerical error should not stand in the way of these athletes' ability to compete.

The privilege of coaching young people carries with it many responsibilities. I appreciate that as a coach, your responsibilities go well beyond the wins and losses. High School athletics are a great way to teach and promote values such as sportsmanship, honesty, dedication, teamwork, self-discipline, and cooperation. Coaches play a leading role in our school's effort to promote sportsmanship.

As a former youth sports coach, a former public school employee, a former high school track athlete and as the current State Representative for Ohio House District 8, I support the young athletes of the Beachwood High School indoor track and field team and believe they deserve to participate in this competition—one in which they have rightfully qualified.

Thank you for your service to Ohio's children, please allow these kids the chance to compete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Smith".

State Representative Kent Smith  
Ohio House District 8

cc: Beachwood City Mayor, Justin Berns  
Beachwood City Council President, Alec Isaacson  
Beachwood City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Robert Hardis  
Beachwood City Schools Director of Athletics, Ryan Peters  
Beachwood City School Board Members  
OATCCC Secretary Member, Julie Cole  
OATCCC Treasurer, James Dingus  
OATCCC OHSAA Liaison, John Kuzio

