

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR JULIE SLAMA

District 1
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2733
jslama@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Enrollment and Review
Agriculture
Business and Labor
Judiciary
Midwestern Higher Education Commission

September 9, 2020

Commissioner Kevin Warren
Big Ten Conference
5440 Park Place
Rosemont, IL 60018

Commissioner Warren,

We are writing you today to urge the Big Ten Conference to transparently reconsider its decision to cancel the fall football season.

Other major conferences have proven over recent weeks that football and other fall sports can be conducted safely. Big Ten athletic programs have led the way for player safety by ensuring student athletes have access to regular testing and are under tight physical distancing controls. Five weeks ago, conference leaders released updated and enhanced testing, quarantine, and isolation policies. These efforts have been successful at preventing the spread of COVID-19, yet the conference disregarded this success by canceling the fall season anyway.

The University of Nebraska's student athletes, coaches, and administrators have overwhelmingly expressed support of a fall sports season. The Big Ten Conference's fall sports cancellation, especially while other major conferences have successfully prepared to return to action, placed our student athletes at a disadvantage to their peers on and off the playing field. Big Ten member institutions also stand to lose hundreds of millions of dollars that support vital student scholarships and programs.

Safely returning to play this fall has support from players, parents, coaches, and fans in the state of Nebraska. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you reconsider your decision and work with our university leaders to allow sports to resume this fall.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Slama".

Nebraska State Senator Julie Slama

Cc: Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors



Senator Joni Albrecht



Senator John Arch



Sen. Bruce G. Bostelman

Senator Bruce Bostelman



Senator Tom Brewer



Senator Tom Briese



Senator Robert Clements



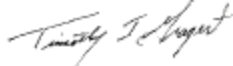
Senator Myron Dom



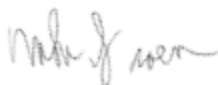
Senator Curt Friesen



Senator Suzanne Geist



Senator Tim Gragert



Senator Mike Groene



Senator Steve Halloran



Senator Ben Hansen



Senator Mike Hilgers



Senator Dan Hughes



Senator Andrew La Grone



Senator Brett Lindstrom



Senator Lou Ann Linehan