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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Duchow to WIAA: #LetJoshRun

Rep. Cindi Duchow (R-Delafield) released the following statement on the WIAA's ruling to prohibit Josh Onwunili, a senior at Campbellsport High School, from participating in the varsity track team:

Josh a senior at Campbellsport High. He grew up there, his parents own a house, and they pay property taxes to the school. However, because he and his parents were on a missionary trip in Ghana for the last two years, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) ruled that he would not be allowed to compete on the varsity track team.

Onwunili is one of the best runners Wisconsin has ever seen, having recorded one of the fastest 100-meter sprints in state history. This decision not only doesn't reflect the spirit of high school athletics in our state, but it can also affect this student's entire career moving forward. It is very difficult to get college scholarships in athletics if you don't play competitively in high school.

This decision is based on mere technicality, and it is extremely disappointing. This is not the only instance of the WIAA ruling against a promising student athlete for matters beyond their control. And in this case, they punish a good student, a good athlete, and a good person for doing good work for other people.

I hope the WIAA will do the right thing, grant Onwunili's appeal, and #LetJoshRun. But given that the WIAA continues to demonstrate a concerning history of poor decision making, some of my colleagues and I in the legislature are currently looking at other options of how to regulate high school sports in Wisconsin.

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Rep. Duchow represents the 99th Assembly District, which includes the villages of Lac La Belle, Chenequa, Hartland, Merton, Nashotah, Oconomowoc Lake, Wales, and portions of the village of Summit; the towns of Delafield, Merton, Oconomowoc, and portions of the town of Lisbon; and the City of Delafield.