

March 10, 2016

Greetings,

This letter is provided to encourage the passage of SB 470. Interestingly, this bill comes before your committee the very week the Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Championship Tournament is occurring at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. Intercollegiate teams from eight different states are competing this week to become national champions.

As a person who acquired his disability as a high school athlete in 1973, I can attest to the overwhelming positive influence adaptive athletics had in my own rehabilitation and subsequent return to an active and productive life. Athletics were an important component of my life both before and after my disability. For me, wheelchair basketball served the whole person. I remained physically fit. I grew as a person and as a leader. I set and achieved many life goals. All, in large part, as a result of my participation in wheelchair basketball. SB 470 supports the exciting combination of academics and athletics for students with disabilities.

It is also important to note the benefit adaptive athletics provides to able-bodied students and the campus community in general. Many, many academic programs train students who need direct exposure to better understand and serve persons with disabilities. Among these; physical therapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling, and adaptive physical education are direct examples. The entire college/university community benefits from inclusion.

Please feel free to contact me at dug.jones@sfcollge.edu if I can provide additional or clarifying information in support of SB 470.

Sincerely,

Dug Jones

Associate Vice President, Santa Fe College

President, Intercollegiate Division, National Wheelchair Basketball Association