January 12, 2021

Arizona Interscholastic Association  
7007 North 18th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85020-5552  

Members of the AIA Executive Board:

We, the below-signed leaders of large medical and health organizations in Arizona, would like to thank you for your recent decision to cancel high school winter sports in our state. We wholeheartedly affirm this difficult decision, as we know that indoor events increase the spread of COVID-19. We greatly appreciate your courage and are grateful that with this decision, you chose to prioritize our healthcare workers and the health of our communities.

Furthermore, we recognize the student athletes’ sacrifice, and we would like to applaud them for leading by example. We believe it is of paramount importance for them to safeguard their health now, to protect their ability to participate in future sports competitions.

We recognize the difficult position you are currently placed in, with so many parents opposed to your decision. We understand that you are planning to re-convene to reconsider your decision. As physicians, nurses, and public health experts, we are strongly urging you to stand by your original decision to cancel winter sports. By upholding your sound decision, you are protecting the students, their families, their teachers and school personnel, the potential attendees of these events, community members, and healthcare workers whose health and lives are jeopardized by the spread of COVID-19 when indoor sports events take place during the peak of a pandemic.

Respectfully,

John Prater, DO  
President  
Maricopa County Medical Society

Ann-Marie Alameddin  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
Libby McDannell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Arizona Medical Association

Will Humble  
Executive Director  
Arizona Public Health Association

William Thompson, MD FASA  
President  
Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists