

Eddie Bonine  
Executive Director  
Louisiana High School Athletic Association  
12720 Old Hammond Highway  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
[ebonine@lhsaa.org](mailto:ebonine@lhsaa.org)

VIA ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL MAIL

November 12, 2018

Dear Mr. Bonine:



PO Box 56157  
New Orleans, LA 70156  
504-522-0617  
[laaclu.org](http://laaclu.org)

Alanah Odoms Hebert  
*Executive Director*

We have received complaints that the Louisiana High School Athletics Association (LHSAA) is requiring participants in high school athletics to provide a Social Security number. We write to inform you that this practice is unconstitutional, and we ask that you take immediate steps to ensure that this requirement is discontinued.

Requiring student athletes to have Social Security numbers is a discriminatory practice that may prevent undocumented children from exercising their right to a public education. Louisiana's undocumented children have the same right as other children living in this state to a free public education, regardless of their immigration status. In fact, Louisiana law prohibits any school system employee from collecting a student's Social Security number unless it is voluntarily disclosed by the student's parent or legal guardian. *See* La. R.S. 17:3914(C)(j).

The United States Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), that states violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution when they deny undocumented children the same educational opportunities that are provided to United States Citizens.

Schools must not erect barriers that will prevent undocumented children from exercising their right to an education or implement practices that have a chilling effect on immigrant students seeking to participate in school activities. Requiring a Social Security number in order to play school sports creates an impermissible barrier to that participation.

We ask that you take immediate steps to rectify this serious problem. My contact information is provided at left, and you can reach the ACLU of Louisiana's staff attorney, Bruce Hamilton, by phone at (504) 522-0628 x. 122 or by e-mail at [bhamilton@laaclu.org](mailto:bhamilton@laaclu.org), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alanah Odoms Hebert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alanah Odoms Hebert  
Executive Director

