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September 10, 2008

## BY FACSIMILE and FIRST CLASS U. S. MAIL

Dr. Toni H. McGriff Director of Schools 105 Bluff Road Kingston, Tennessee 37763

Mr. Earl J. Nall Chairman Post Office Box 14 Kingston, Tennessee 37763

RE: Illegal Drug Testing of High School Student Athletes

Dear Dr. McGriff and Mr. Nall:

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Tennessee ("ACLU-TN") has been contacted by David Higgins, the father of a ninth grader at Harriman High School, to challenge the "random" drug testing of student-athletes in the middle schools and high schools of Roane County. Your schools' policy of allowing "random" drug testing, violates Tennessee law and raises serious state constitutional issues.

Tennessee Code Annotated Section 49-6-4213 provides in pertinent part that "[a] student may be subject to testing for the presence of drugs in the student's body ... if there are reasonable indications to the principal that such student may have used or be under the influence of drugs." A Tennessee Attorney General's Opinion, Number 07-96 from July 2007, concludes in response to an inquiry by the Executive Director of the State Board of Education in Nashville, Tennessee that random drug testing, such as the type engaged in by your middle and high schools (and in particular by Harriman High School) violates the express language of the school drug testing statute, found at Tennessee Code Annotated Section 49-6-4213. We also believe that the random drug testing conducted by your schools may also violate our state constitution.

Consequently, ACLU-TN believes that the random drug testing of Mr. Higgins' daughter, a student-athlete at Harriman High School, is a clear violation of the Tennessee statute which sets forth the parameters of drug testing of students. On behalf of the Higgins family, we respectfully request that you change your policy of random drug testing of students at Roane County schools within thirty (30) days. Unless such change is formally adopted by the school district and the Board of Education, David Higgins, on behalf of his daughter, will take legal action to stop the illegal, random drug testing.

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Dr. McGriff and Mr. Nall Page 2 September 10, 2008

Please respond within five (5) business days, in writing, so that this situation can be resolved without the necessity of litigation.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF TENNESSEE

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ACLU FOUNDATION OF TENNESSEE

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