To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to explain why Kandi (Hailey) Selix-Segers resides with my family, and should be eligible to participate in athletics at Westview High School.

Kandi and her brother, Lucas entered the foster care system at a young age after being removed from their mother and father’s abusive home. They came to live with two sisters, Beverly Selix and Joyce Segers. After a few years with their foster family, Kandi and Lucas were adopted by Bev and Joyce.

Even after their adoption, life for Kandi and Lucas was a struggle. As they grew older, these struggles grew into feelings of insecurity, instability, and loneliness. They did not feel loved or wanted in their home. Eventually, these feelings became so overwhelming that both kids ran away from their home.

Kandi was a runaway for approximately three months. She spent time with many different people and in many different homes. Kandi typically slept on a different couch or floor each night; often times, Kandi did not know where she would be the next day or where she would stay the night. There were even multiple nights that Kandi, with nowhere else to go, slept outside on the ground behind a store.

Kandi and Lucas are both former students of mine. While I am no longer either of their teacher, both kids continued to stay in contact with me. When I learned about their situation, I knew that I wanted to help in any way that I could. My family decided to open our home to Kandi and Lucas.

At first, the intention was for Kandi and Lucas to only stay with us for the weekend while other arrangements were made. However, the length of their stay continued to increase as complications at their home continued to grow. As time went on, Kandi and Lucas became comfortable with us, and began to think of us as family. After two months of living with us, Kandi and Lucas’ parents could see that both kids were happier in our home, and were making positive choices and improving academically. This prompted Bev and Joyce to relinquish their parental rights, consent to our guardianship of both kids, and even support the adoption of both kids if we so choose.

Kandi and Lucas have been living in our home now for three months. Our home is now their permanent residence, and lies within the Westview attendance boundary. Since Kandi now lives in the Westview area, we wanted her to be able to go to school with other kids in our neighborhood and make friends nearby. While Kandi is technically homeless and able to choose which school she attends, we completed administrative transfer paperwork and received approval for her to attend Westview, despite that her parents remain in the Aloha high school attendance area.

Now that Kandi has found her footing at Westview, she would like to participate in athletics. Kandi needs a healthy outlet for stress, and more opportunities to make friends. She also needs the opportunity to feel more like a member of the school community, and to increase her self-confidence. Kandi loves to run and would like the opportunity to run track for her school, in this case, Westview. Kandi deserves this opportunity and has a right to represent her school in athletics.

Our guardianship paperwork has been completed and submitted to the court by our attorney. My husband and I have a signed Power of Attorney while we wait for the guardianship to be approved. Kandi is currently attending Westview and will for the duration of her high school career. Not only is Kandi a permanent resident with Westview’s attendance area, she attends Westview full-time.

Please authorize our request and allow Kandi, our soon-to-be-daughter, to participate in athletics at her home school, Westview.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Redding