



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: STEVE SPINA**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3452**

**COACH GETS CHANCE TO PROVE HIS TALENT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Joseph Szilvasi, a visually impaired soccer coach, is going to get his chance to apply for a class B license thanks to the efforts of U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

Szilvasi contacted Rahall about the U.S. Soccer Federation's decision that those holding class B licenses had to perform a playing skills demonstration. Szilvasi, who is legally blind in one eye and severely dyslexic, maintains that performance on the field is not always relevant to coaching ability.

Rep. Rahall agreed: "In light of the recent passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I felt that the Soccer Federation should accommodate Mr. Szilvasi in his efforts to upgrade his coaching license. His disability has no bearing on his ability to be an effective coach."

Rahall then went to work writing the U.S. Soccer Federation and other Members of Congress, seeking their support for Mr. Szilvasi.

The full court press paid off. Bob Gansler, the Director of Coaching and Player Development, informed Joe that he had, "no qualms about waiving the game participation or demonstration aspect of our testing, if you choose to go through the examination portion of the course."

All Joe wanted was a chance to show the Federation just how good a coach he really is," said Rahall. "I'm glad their going to give him that chance."

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