

My name is Chuck Grimm and I currently live in Strongsville, Ohio where I have been a resident for 25 years. I am a OHSAA certified basketball official and I have officiated games at the youth, high school and college level for over 25 years. I am currently the Secretary for the Lake Erie Basketball Officials Association (over 500 members) and the conference commissioner for 2 high school leagues in the Cleveland area. My duties as commissioner include assigning football, basketball, wrestling and track officials for over 20 high schools and middle schools.

I fully support the passage of HB 208 for many reasons. Over the years, the level of respect for officials has deteriorated to the point where spectators, coaches and players exhibit more verbal and physical assault on officials on a regular basis.

Many adult league players have threatened basketball, baseball and softball officials and umpires.

I personally have been physically assaulted by a young adult player and I have experienced numerous verbal confrontations. In most cases, the persons involved experience no punishment or consequences for any of these actions.

I honestly believe that passage of HB 208 will positively affect behaviors in the future. When coaches, spectators and players realize that their actions could result in serious outcomes, behaviors will change.

HB 208 will also inspire those young and old to explore an officiating career with the comfort that the law can provide some protections from physical assault. The number of officials nationwide in all sports has declined over the past few years and surveys conducted reveal that the negative treatment officials receive is a major contributor.

The officiating community appreciates the State of Ohio and the lawmakers who support HB 208. Most of us are aware of the bill and the efforts that are being made to finalize its passage.

Thank you
Chuck Grimm