

Good morning to Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Cera. My name is Greg Roemer and it's my pleasure to provide written testimony relative to HB 208. Unfortunately, I am unable to appear in person as I am umpiring in Richmond, Virginia today. I have been a baseball umpire for eighteen years, well over half of my life. I have spent the last 9 years as a professional baseball umpire. Over that period of time, I have had an opportunity to observe numerous instances of horrendously bad behavior, but am fortunate to have never been personally assaulted. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these situations occurred during the period of time I umpired youth sports.

While it is unfortunate that the provisions in this bill are necessary, it will definitely serve to make parents, players and coaches aware of the consequences of their actions. It is vitally important that all sports officials receive the full protection of the law, and need not fear physical harm in an already stressful environment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this written testimony before the House Criminal Justice Committee. Please consider taking the first step in both protecting and revitalizing our pool of sports officials in Ohio with the passage of HB 208.