



*OHIO'S PREMIER YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE*

To: House Criminal Justice Committee

Subject: House Bill 208

I am writing to support this house bill that will make it a fifth degree felony to assault an official of sporting events.

I would have liked to attend in person, but my work schedule does not permit it.

As Founder and President of the Central Ohio Youth Baseball League, I.I.C. for the last 20 years, I have seen things deteriorate at youth sporting events, putting officials at risk of bodily injury or even death. I have put in a league rule that anyone that follows an umpire to the parking lot, making threats or making physical contact will be banned for life from the league.

Without any penalty in place, people are going to continue to treat officials with disrespect and with threats of violence.

This bill is very much needed to not only protect the officials, but the children at these games. It is time that a law with some bite to it is implemented to show people this is a serious problem and they need to act like adults and show their kids a better example on how to deal with things as an adult and not an out of control maniac.

I cringe at the thought if this bill does not pass. I truly feel that the life of youth sports as a whole is at risk.

The officials in all sports need to be protected by any means at our disposal.

I trust you all will do the right thing, leave politics out of it and pass this bill. If not, I fear one day, an official is going to be harmed or worse and I would not want that to happen on my watch or on my conscious.

Please pass Bill HB 208 without further a due. Time is of the essence here.

Respectfully,

Doug Hare

  
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