



Representative Gail Pavliga
Ohio's 75th House District

House Bill 492

Good Morning

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 492

It is often stated we need to do more for mental health in this state. As my joint sponsor mentioned, our governor made mental health a primary topic in his state of the state address last week.

It is our hope this bill can address one area of need in mental health awareness.

For years in high school athletics we have discussed a multitude of dangers high school athletes can encounter during their time playing sports. We have talked about how dangerous concussions are in a multiple sports, in response to this, high school coaches have to undergo training to spot symptoms of concussions and take the necessary steps to address the problem and keep the athletes safe

Is mental health any less important? Shouldn't a high school coach be able to handle a mental health crisis in the same way they are prepared to administer CPR?

The high school coaches and administrators we have talked to in the lead up to this bill understand and know this is a needed addition to the coaches' curriculum.

Today's high school athletes face more mental health concerns than ever before. It is time we provide coaches and administrators with the necessary tools to help these athletes through a time in their lives that should be great, but can often times be destructive

Thank you once gain for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 492. I would also like to thank Representative Loychik for bringing me in as a joint sponsor, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have for us.