

To: House Criminal Justice Committee

RE: H.B. 139

Testimony from Eric Bender

Youth sports official 12 years: basketball, football, fastpitch softball

Have worked in youth recreational leagues; middle school and high school, including state tournament; summer travel tournaments, including national tournaments; average more than a game per day

Personal experience with issue

Had parent/fan come onto gym floor

Have been at playoff games with

1. unsupportive site administrator
2. fans verbally abusive after game

Various levels of support from site administrators; administrators in position of conflict

Parents/adults/spectators

Mostly positive interaction

Heated situations not always predictable, logical, or controllable

Unique vulnerability of official

Small group, easy to target; may not have partner

Mob mentality