

HB 139 - Sports Officials Assault Legislation
Proponent Testimony
From
Andy Milligan
June 13, 2023

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and to all of the members of the House Criminal Justice Committee; I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I come to you today as a 12 year license soccer referee, youth mentor and previous national instructor for the US Soccer Referee Association. I am not an attorney nor am I a lobbyist but I am a concerned citizen and lifelong constituent resident of Ohio.

We began our efforts to address the increased number of assaults on sports officials back in February of 2019. Since that time, this legislation has passed in the Ohio House twice, most recently with only 9 dissenting votes.

In the written testimony that I have submitted to the Chairwoman's office, there are over 4 dozen statements from sports officials and professional referee associations who support the passage of this legislation. Many of these statements have personal accounts of assaults on sports officials as young as 14 years old to the most seasoned veteran referee.

This issue starts at the youngest of organized youth games, ages 8-9. Spectators say and act how they want with no regard for the consequences of their actions. As the level and age of competition increases, these verbal threats quickly escalate into physical violence against our sports officials.

According to research by the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) and the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS) we lose 70% - 80% of newly trained sports officials within 2-3 years of being licensed.

The number one reason for this unsustainable turnover rate is cited as spectator and coach abuse.

Nationally, reports of attacks on sports officials are increasing in alarming numbers. According to a Marquette Law Review, some states are seeing a yearly increase of 25-50% in reported cases.

From Ohio's perspective, our code already offers felony consequences for assault on those serving in the public sector such as teachers, school administrators, bus drivers while performing their duties at school functions such as sporting events.

Furthermore, sports officials are reminded that the sporting event 'is an extension of the classroom' and that 'our role is integral to the development of student athletes.' The contract that I sign to accept a game assignment is between myself, OHSAA and the host high school. The check that I receive for officiating these games come from the host high school board yet the school bus driver who transports the students has more coverage under the current law than I do as the referee arbitrating the game in the most contentious position.

Lastly, it needs to be noted that even those that were initially opposed to the presumed disparate impact of this bill's penalties are now voting in support of this bill. The statistics from OHSAA show that 80% of the reported cases are white on white and rarely come from minority on white assault situations.

I ask you to pass this legislation not only for the need to create a safer workplace environment for our sports officials but to protect the next generation of referees, umpires and field judges that are entering this line of work at the average age of 11-12 years old.

Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Proponent Testimony
Sports Official Assault HB 44
March 25, 2021
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(6-13-23)

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- Dale West, South Euclid
- Owen Brigner, Defiance Ohio basketball
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- Scott Kapple, Fleming Ohio basketball
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- Kevin Forrer, Troy Ohio
- Chuck Grimm, Strongsville Ohio basketball
- Greg Roemer, professional baseball umpire



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Barry Mano's testimony

Dave Simon <dsimon@referee.com>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 2:43 PM

Hi Andy, this is Dave Simon, following up for Barry. Attached is his written testimony. Sorry we couldn't get him there in person. Hopefully this will help successfully advance the debate. Excellent job get this in front of Ohio's elected officials and pushing it along. Keep us posted as this progresses.

All the best,

Dave Simon

Associate Editor

Referee magazine/National Association of Sports Officials

Work: 262.632-8855, ext. 123

Mobile: 972.890.3648

dsimon@referee.com

Referee.com

NASO.org

THE SPORTS OFFICIATING SUMMIT



July 28-30, 2019 — Spokane, Washington

From: Barry Mano <bmano@referee.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Written Testimony of Barry Mano

President of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO)

June 25, 2019

Prepared for the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee

For consideration in HB 208 Sports Official Proponent Testimony Information

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on this important issue regarding the safety of sports officials throughout Ohio. My name is Barry Mano and I am the Founder and President of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), as well as the Founder and Publisher of *Referee* magazine.

NASO is a national non-profit association representing close to 30,000 members across the United States. Our mission is to advocate and provide education for sports officials, among many other key services. *Referee* magazine is the “go-to” publication for sports officials, covering all issues related to our field.

We have testified and provided critical information many times on the issue of sports assault legislation, and are honored to share with you key statistics and our perspective on why sports officials should be protected at a higher level of safety than the general populace.

Why Assault Legislation?

News headlines remind us that sportsmanship is on the decline and that fans, coaches and players are crossing the line when it comes to simple civil behavior at sporting events. It seems that fans, coaches and players sometimes think that their participation fee or admission ticket gives them the right to attack officials. It’s time to put an end to such thinking.

The National Association of Sports Officials has championed the assault legislation cause for more than three decades. Currently, more than 20 states have adopted various forms of legislation, all with one goal in mind: Protect sports officials. (For a complete list and detailed review, visit www.naso.org.)

Still, legislation efforts occasionally face objections. Those objections are rarely based on an opinion that sports officials do not face difficult challenges. Rather, objections tend to be based on a more fundamental, constitutional-type argument: There are already assault laws on the books, so why is it necessary to have more laws? Why create a “special class?” It’s a fair debate.

The advantages and benefits of having specific statutory law dealing with attacks on officials are tangible. Penalties are increased. In some states, second offenses are more severely dealt with. Felony convictions may be available. The existence of a state law criminalizing an attack on an official telegraphs to prosecutors, judges and juries that such an assault is to be taken seriously – that it is not OK to punch a referee if you don’t like a call that he or she makes.

Increased penalties are also a deterrent. When the general sporting public – coaches, players and fans alike – are aware that assaulting a sports official means severe penalties ... that very notion should prevent some assaults from occurring.

Certain segments of the public deserve and need special protection due to the nature of their jobs – police officers, firefighters, teachers, etc. NASO believes that in the sports world, officials are that segment that deserve and need special protection due to the nature of the job.

Why do sports officials need extra protection? It's simple. Officials represent the only authority on the field or court, and are therefore in a position – by the nature of their job – to be the object of praise and ridicule. If officials are unable to control the situation, it is likely that chaos will occur.

HB 208 takes a significant and proper step to increase protection for sports officials in Ohio. We encourage members to support this legislation.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship applies to the personal safety of sports officials, but is also a major issue impacting the recruitment and retention of officials. An unsafe working environment creates conditions that drives current and prospective people from the officiating profession/avocation.

I'd like to insert a short reminder that the large majority of sports officials do this job as an avocation. They have a full-time job they go back to after the game, with all the additional challenges that go along with that. Most officials love the sport, and officiate to give something back to the game. They make huge sacrifices of time to train and travel to meetings and games. Unsafe working conditions create a reason for far too many officials to exit the game they love.

In 2017, NASO undertook the largest survey of sports officials in history. Over 17,000 officials responded to our questionnaire, a huge marker regarding their interest in sharing their views. Sportsmanship was a big one. Here are some key statistics from the survey for your consideration while debating and considering this bill:

- 64 percent of officials surveyed have removed a spectator from the court or field for poor behavior.
- Close to six percent of sports officials have been assaulted during or after a game by a fan. Almost five percent have been assaulted by a player and 2.5 percent by a coach. That's unacceptable.
- 53 percent of officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety due to the behavior of an administrator, player, coach or spectator.

You may find more information at www.naso.org/survey/.

Conclusion

Many steps must be taken to improve safety for sports officials, and the major source of the problem, which is bad fan behavior. Legislation establishing a special protected status for sports officials is an important and significant step towards improving working conditions for officials and keeping the pipeline open for new officials to enter this field.

NASO wholeheartedly supports HB 208, and we encourage swift passage of this legislation. The legislation not only supports the role sports officials play on our society today in a positive fashion, but also establishes an example for other states to emulate.

We have some unique ideas for enforcement mechanisms regarding this type of legislation. If you would like to hear those ideas, or would like any additional information or input from NASO, please feel free to reach me directly at bmano@referee.com.



February 16, 2020

George Lang
c/o Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus OH 43215
VIA EMAIL

The Professional Soccer Referees Association (PSRA) represents the interests of soccer referees at the professional level in all professional leagues in the United States and Canada. PSRA stands firmly against any sort of referee assault or abuse in our sport at any level. We support any legislation that can be enacted to help deter such incidents from taking place and punish those who commit such terrible acts.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Steve Taylor'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Through Unity. Strength.
Steve Taylor
PSRA Executive Director
434-249-4972 (cell/text)



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Re: Fw: Capital West Umpires Association (Baseball)

Doug Hare <doughare@coybl.org>

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 2:54 PM

To: "leehawkinsjr@sbcglobal.net" <leehawkinsjr@sbcglobal.net>, andymilligan2@gmail.com

Lee,

Here is my statement.

If I can help in any other way, please let me know.

if I need to elaborate more, let me know

Doug Hare

President

Central Ohio Youth Baseball League

PO Box 1425

Pataskala, Ohio 43062

www.coybl.org

On Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 9:46 AM Lee HAWKINS <leehawkinsjr@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "donotreply@ohioreferee.com" <donotreply@ohioreferee.com>

To: "syneca19@gmail.com" <syneca19@gmail.com>, "keith0236@yahoo.com" <keith0236@yahoo.com>, "leeharris1518@gmail.com" <leeharris1518@gmail.com>, "msyogih@Columbus.rr.com" <msyogih@Columbus.rr.com>, "leehawkinsjr@sbcglobal.net" <leehawkinsjr@sbcglobal.net>, "jheatherly75@gmail.com" <jheatherly75@gmail.com>, "mhig984@aol.com" <mhig984@aol.com>

Sent: Sun, Jun 23, 2019 at 3:02 PM

Subject: Capital West Umpires Association (Baseball)

DO NOT REPLY to this e-mail. This message is from 'Bob Powers'. Use 'bpsp1475@sbcglobal.net' for any replies.

ACTION REQUIRED Assault Law Update

</ span>

OHSAA Secretaries:

Please forward this information to your membership as we need your help to push this over the finish line.



OHIO'S PREMIER YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

WWW.COYBL.ORG

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, LLC. 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

DOUG HARE

P.O. Box 1425

Pataskala, Ohio 43062-1425

P: 614-778-1391

doughare@coybl.org



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Legislation

GCSOA Treasurer <gcsoatreasurer@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 10:47 AM

Hi Andy

How is the referee abuse legislation going?
Do you have a copy of the proposed legislation by chance?
I would like to discuss it at our next GCSOA board meeting.
I think it is fantastic that you have initiated this!!!
Other than separately calling our state representatives is there anything else we can do to help?

Best
Brian Banjac



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Fwd: I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.

Brian Banjac <brian.banjac@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 23, 2019 at 10:43 PM



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **State Senator Matt Dolan** <Dolan@ohiosenate.gov>
Date: Tue, Apr 23, 2019 at 4:53 PM
Subject: RE: I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.
To: brian.banjac@gmail.com <brian.banjac@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

Thanks for your letter. As a father of 2 athletic boys, I have seen the disturbing behavior of some "fans" at various sporting events. I will review the legislation knowing there is a problem. I always thought a player would be removed from the game if the parent is out of line. This way the kids would police their parents.

Thank you again for reaching out.

Sincerely,

Senator Matt Dolan
24th Ohio Senate District

-----Original Message-----

From: brian.banjac@gmail.com [mailto:brian.banjac@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 6:31 PM
To: State Senator Matt Dolan
Subject: I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.

First Name : BRIAN

Last Name : BANJAC

Address : 8595 NORTHWOOD DRIVE

City : BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

State : OH

Zip : 44147

Phone : (440) 832-8595

Email : brian.banjac@gmail.com

Subject :
I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.

Message :

Senator Dolan:

I strongly implore you to support Senate Bill 118, as introduced by Senator Roegner. I have been a soccer official for twenty years, including at the amateur, youth, high school and college. Across the board, officials are harrassed and often threatened.. over a game! There are countless articles describing the lack of officials to support the games to be covered, and many officials are older and cannot keep up. As a board member of the Greater Cleveland Soccer Officials Association, I often ask people I know who are even younger than me (full disclosure I am 32), why they do not become officials? The answer is the same every time - I would not be able to take the abuse, or, I was part of the abuse when I was a player and feel like a hypocrite, etc.

We are losing our decorum as a society, and the lack of officials/official abuse is the sign of much larger problems in our society. While it will not fix the problem entirely, I am convinced nothing short of passing this legislation will slow it down the descent of society we are facing.

Thank you for your time and consideration, sir.

Regards,

Brian Banjac



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sports Officials Bill

wany1969 <wany1969@yahoo.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 12:41 PM

Andy

Where should emails be sent to support abuse on sports officials? I run a chapter of 300 basketball officials in Cleveland, Ohio and we want to support this.

Mark Wanyerka

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sports officials assault legislation

jranally@oh.rr.com <jranally@oh.rr.com>

Sun, Sep 1, 2019 at 10:07 AM

To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Cc: "eylaxbball@gmail.com" <eylaxbball@gmail.com>, "wklepac@aol.com" <wklepac@aol.com>, "w_ungar@att.net" <w_ungar@att.net>

Andy:

Greetings and best wishes! First of all, thank you for your effort to enact sports officials assault legislation. HB 208 and SB 118 are very important to sports officials throughout the state. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend your September 23rd meeting as I will be visiting family in NYC. Please keep me in mind for any future meetings to discuss these very important pieces of legislation.

Gratefully,
Jerry Ranally
NEOBOA Treasurer

Willoughby, OH

[Quoted text hidden]

NE Ohio Basketball
Officials Assoc.



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sports officials assault legislation

jranally@oh.rr.com <jranally@oh.rr.com>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 1, 2019 at 3:40 PM

Andy, this exactly what I'm talking about as well? Wow, this type of behavior by players, coaches and fans are ruining sports at all levels. Our association is having difficulty in attracting new and younger officials and I believe these scenarios are making people think twice about officiating any sport at all levels. Very sad!

Jerry

[Quoted text hidden]



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

HB 208 Sports Official Proponent Testimony Information

Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 5:19 PM

To: Andrew.Shehorn@ohiohouse.gov, Mike Porpora <mporpora35@gmail.com>

Bcc: Rick Hanna <rchanna70@att.net>

Andrew,

Here's a video testimony that we would like to have submitted as well. This comes from a national perspective from an online account with over 50,000 viewers. This gentleman has been following our proposal and has a vested interest in its passage.

Thank you.

Andy Milligan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian Barlow** <barlow@pineapplecrushed.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 4:54 PM

Subject: Re: HB 208 Sports Official Proponent Testimony Information

To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Andy,

Please submit as part of the testimony.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ojcvrve3nvrva5/File%20from%20iOS.MOV?dl=0>

Brian Barlow
 barlow@pineapplecrushed.com 918-704-1110

Pineapple Offside BARLOW BARLOW
 Dallas, TX

Andy,

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. This legislation is aimed at helping one of the most overlooked and most victimized participants in athletics- the official.

It's common for an official to be the target of verbal harassment from players, coaches, and all too often, the spectators. Unfortunately, physical assault is a growing trend that we hope to prevent from also becoming common.

I began my position as Director of Officials with the Ohio High School Athletic Association in 2012. For the first five years in this role, we had zero reported instances of physical contact against an official. In the year and a half since, we've had 10 reported incidents, some of which did result in assault charges being filed.

10 incidents may seem a small number given the thousands of games that occur each year, but from a growth perspective, it is a trend that is alarming. This is part of a larger issue with sportsmanship that the OHSAA is addressing. Ejections are on the rise. Sportsmanship issues at games have risen 140% over the last 6 years. And these are just the incidents that are reported. As you all know from your time working in criminal justice matters, not all incidents get reported.

This legislation will help spotlight that this type of behavior is not acceptable. Officials should be shown the same decency and respect as others in the educational environment who receive extra protection, such as teachers, administrators, and bus drivers. 21 other states already have this type of legislation, and Ohio would be a welcome addition to them. Protecting officials in Ohio is protecting athletic opportunities for the youth in Ohio, who are at risk of having their games cancelled due to a shortage of officials, through no fault of their own.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Beau Rugg
Director of Officiating
Ohio High School Athletic Association
House Proponent Testimony 6-27-19



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

PENDING: New Ohio Law : Assault Of Officials

Doug Billerman <Doug.Billerman@celinainsurance.com>

Sun, Jun 23, 2019 at 3:17 PM

To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Cc: Doug Billerman <Doug.Billerman@celinainsurance.com>

Andy:

Thank you for following up on this matter. I have sent this out to our Soccer Officiating group in / near the Lima, OH area in the Western Ohio Soccer Officials Association (WOSOA Association).

I have been fortunate to only to have dealt with the " verbal " comments, abuse from fans / players over the years. I also officiate / umpire Baseball and Girls Fast Pitch Softball in the Spring time of the year. I have seen two situations that dealt with physical contact / assault type post game interactions. These did not happen to me directly; but to my officiating partner.

(1) Was in 2002 or 2003; but in Coldwater, OH ; after a baseball game; my partner had gone into the public restrooms at the local park; and he was assaulted by two father's of the opposing team's players in the restroom. Now, looking at this situation more clearly; he should not have gone to the restroom by himself; but he did. Police report was filed and then dealt with as the parties were identified.

(2) Second situation was a soccer game that I was just attending & just watching. A couple of parents crossed way over the line when they had grabbed one of the officials by the jersey while yelling at them about their game performance.

Here is West Central Ohio, we do not see or hear of these situations too often, but with the current DAY, what it is with the media / technology access, these type of unfortunate situations with assault on an official is much more visible and documented.

Sincerely,

Doug Billerman

Secretary: Ohio: Western Ohio Soccer Officials Assoc.

OHSAA Official ; 21 years of Soccer; 23 years of Baseball ; 20 years of Girls Fast Pitch Softball

Permit # 153895

Doug Billerman, AIC

Master Field Claim Representative

P: 419.586.8181 | F: 419.586.8343

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The information contained in this message (including any attachments) is confidential and may be privileged. Unauthorized disclosure, copying, or use of this information is prohibited and may be unlawful.



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Thank you from fellow ref

7 messages

Kevin Robertson <krobsjungle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 8:56 AM

Reply-To: "krobsjungle@yahoo.com" <krobsjungle@yahoo.com>

To: "Andymilligan2@gmail.com" <Andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Hello Andy,

I commend your efforts for seeking change in Ohio for referee protection. I am a OHSAA basketball ref for 19 yrs, and was thrilled to have received my 1st final 4 assignment this yr. As exciting as this that was, this yr also provided my worst experience as an official being attacked by a Lutheran East Athletic Director/asst coach. It was a game marred by 10 total technical fouls, suspended game w/ 2+ min left after fan threw chair on floor, and then being assaulted by the aforementioned guy in hallway. I HAVE THE SECURITY FOOTAGE which makes the footage from the fox 8 new piece look like "childs play." I'd be interested in further sharing my story and helping the efforts. Let me know how I can help to never let this happen again.

The state also received video and issued a 2 game suspension. I have not been informed of any other penalties, nor ever received apology from the school.

All the best,

Kevin Robertson
216-288-9544

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

mentor, OH

Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 11:35 AM

To: "krobsjungle@yahoo.com" <krobsjungle@yahoo.com>

Cc: Mike Porpora <mporpora35@gmail.com>

Hi Kevin,

I have received dozens of emails from others who have encountered assault while officiating but this one seems to be one of the worst.

I would like to have some more documentation from you from this situation. Can you send to me the video? If there was a police report, can you send that to me as well?

Mike and I will be testifying at the Senate Judiciary Committee and these are the exact situations that we want to present to them as to what we are trying to address.

Meanwhile, congratulations on your hard work to be assigned to a final 4 game. I'm just sorry that it had to be such a bad experience for you.

Again, I thank you for your support and look forward to hearing back from you.

Andy Milligan
[Quoted text hidden]

Kevin Robertson <krobsjungle@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 11:55 AM

Reply-To: "krobsjungle@yahoo.com" <krobsjungle@yahoo.com>



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

House bill 208

ray asher <umpire5350@yahoo.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 2:28 PM

Andy, my name is R Asher 144708 I am supporting the bill because I have been assault and even had rocks thrown at me I been a ohsaa member for 28 years and this should have been passed 25 years ago . Just the other day a fan kicked me in the back of the leg some thing has to done I just wanted to have my say thank u and let's get it done r asher

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

N. Ridgville



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

IMG_0846.MOV

Ray Parker II <rwpark2@sbcglobal.net>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 10:08 AM

Good Morning Andy,

My name is Ray Parker.

I Officiate High School sports and College Baseball for the past part 15 years.

Here is a video clip of a Sumner AAU Basketball game at Western Reserve High School - Berlin Center, Ohio.


As you can see in the video, this could have gotten pretty ugly if I was struck in the back of my head. I was not struck and the young man was escorted physically off by his coach. By the Grace of God, I was able to duck.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

I can be reached at 330-717-9557

Sent from my iPhone

Poland, OH

 **IMG_0846.MOV**
1149K



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Protection of OHSAA Sports Officials

Billy Holland <billholland@rocketmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 9:49 PM

In response to your email of June 25th I fully support this bill for protection of sports officials.

In football week 9 of the season of 2017 I had a man approach me after my varsity game, started a conversation with me about how good I moved on the football field and then proceeded to follow me to my car and tell me why I shouldn't park in that spot because it prohibited his disabled father from parking close to the field. I apologized to him and told him disabled parking was not this space. He then followed me all around my car so I couldn't enter and being belligerent. He then told me he was the former chief of police of local police department and then called the local police department on me. As I was trying to call my friend whom use to be Lieutenant of the Lawrence County State Highway Patrol Post to have them dispatch a unit cause I felt unsafe and didn't know if the local police would handle it the right way. A fight started across the parking lot as local police was arriving and while I was calling my friend and he went towards the fight cause he thought it was his son. I left as quick as I could. The OHSAA requires schools to protect me from the time I arrive till I leave the grounds. I also believe this guy knew there was no repercussions for him and continued his assault on me. I've been officiating for 28 years and during and after many games I've been hesitant to leave the lockerroom or field. This has to stop and a law introduced for the safety of current and recruitment of new officials. This is the #1 reason we can't recruit now and a lot are leaving. I ask for you support for the protection of sports officials as more than a misdemeanor and enforce it as a felony and a fine! Then after a few arrest this foolishness will cease!

Billy Holland, OHSAA ID#140153
Secretary-Treasure
Jackson Football Officials Association

Gallipolis, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Official

Gary Ward <www.trm1@yahoo.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 10:47 PM

Hello my name is Gary and I'm a basketball official in Cincinnati, Ohio and I was assaulted this year by a player. I was officiating a game when a player didn't like a call that I made and it first started with being verbally accosted. This went on for about two or three minutes and later escalated to physical assault. When it comes to sports emotion can take control of some, but most participants are wonderful. As officials we need need a bill and law in the state to keep both officials and participants safe.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

HB 208

Dwane Stalder <dandgstalder@yahoo.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 10:21 AM

My name is Dwane Stalder and I am a long time official. I got my baseball/ softball license a year after I graduated from High school in 1981 because I loved the game . I had 2 daughters and 1 played at Findlay university so I've been around the game for almost 40 years in one way or another . In that time things have went from not to bad to awful. I do about 150 games a year and I am appalled how fans and parents are today ! One time I had a guy follow me to my car and get right into my face screaming and just when I felt he was about to hit me I lunged at him and kind of held on tight until help got there. He threw punches and I didn't but it cost me a fortune to hire a attorney just so I wouldn't get in trouble. He didn't get anything out of it !!! Seems like the Younger the teams the worst the parents are but even some of the older girls that play the parents are bad there too. Something needs done plain and simple. Thanks for your time.
Sincerely Dwane Stalder

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Kenton, OH, East of Lima



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Thank you

Dwane Stalder <dandgstalder@yahoo.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 7, 2019 at 10:03 PM

Thank you for your time on this project. I have introduced umpiring to 5 family members and friends and the longest any of them have stayed is 2 years. Same old same old. Time for change !!!
Thank you Dwane Stalder

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Kenton, off



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

HB 208

dustinmassie75@yahoo.com <dustinmassie75@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 9:30 AM

Reply-To: "dustinmassie75@yahoo.com" <dustinmassie75@yahoo.com>

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Hi Andy

I will do by best to be there if not me personally. My mom will try to be there for me. I have heard that when a mom speak people listen. She is working on getting away from work. I am emailing my story and her story to you just in case we can not make it.

On May 6, 2019 in Springfield, Ohio I was umpiring a little league baseball game. During the game a women said to me she needed to talk to me about something that was happening on the playground with my little brother. I told the women I was there to umpire a game not to watch the playground. I continue to start the next inning of the game. At this time the women walked out on the field and started screaming and yelling at me. I told her she was out here. She continue to yelling, cussing me out and get into my face. She was nose to nose with me. I kept repeating myself in a calm manner you are out of here. The next thing I know I was in a circle of coaches and this women I was trying to get to my mom's car where I thought I would be safe. I was then grubbed by my check protector and pushed to the ground where I hit my head. I got up and walked straight my mom's car and she was still coming at me yelling and cussing. I then called 911 from the car when another parent heard me till them I was only 17 years old. I gave the Clark County Sheriff department my report and nothing was ever done to the coach that pushed me.

I have since continue to umpire baseball all spring and summer long. I love baseball and I won't let this event. I also have my wrestling official license and thinking about getting my football. All officials need protection at sporting events. Something needs to be done with parents and coaches getting out of hand over the stupidest thing. This wasn't even about the baseball game this about my little brother. She should have gone to my mom cause she was there watching me.

I just want to feel safe again.

Sincerely

Dustin Massie

London, OH

On May 6 2019 my son Dustin was umpiring in Springfield, Ohio. I was seating in front of my car watching him. His little brother went off to the playground to play while Dustin did his job. Dustin was 17 years old and didn't have a driver license so we normally stay and watch his far away games. I was talking with a friend on my phone when I her Dustin raise his voice and say your out of here. At the time I looked up seen my son be surround by coaches and a women yelling and cussing at him. I missed whatever this was about so I started walking fast to the field to get to him. By the time I got to him he was on the ground. I looked at the coach that pushed him say you just laid your hands on 17 year old boy. He looked at me said I don't give the F word how old her is you fat F word B word. This whole time the women and coach where following my son to the car yelling cussing and threatening him. I called 911 and report an assault to a minor. As we waited for the sheriff to arrive the continue with the threats and cussing. My son was seating the car and I told him not to move. My youngest son was also put in my car and told not to move. Still at this point I had no clue what this was all about.

Witnesses give reports of what happen to my son to the sheriff department. Parents were upset because they won't do anything to this women and coach for what they did to my son. I was told the next afternoon that if I

want to keep fighting this I would be thrown in jail. I have call a lawyer and working on a civil suit against this women and coach.

My husband is also baseball umpire and I hear stories every night about parents and coaches getting out of hand at games. Dustin has his baseball and wrestling official license. I believe that all sports need protection. They should not fear for there safety while during their jobs. I shouldn't have to worry about their safety at sporting events. Sport events should be fun and enjoyable. Fan, parents, and coaches should be staying example. I feel once there is a law to protect official just maybe they will know this behavior will not be acceptable at sporting events. I will not stop fighting for the House Bill 208.

Sincerely

Jaime Massie
Mother of Dustin Massie



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Copy of letter to Kent Smith

Tim Donovan <ump44121@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 12:33 PM

To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com, mporpora35@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have been a sports official in baseball, softball, basketball and football for over 35 years in each sport. Over the years I have seen and been victim of verbal abuse from coaches and parents over the play of children from ages 9 to high school. I have found it necessary to call police to restore peace or remove people from youth games on a couple of occasions.

I was assaulted by players and a coach throwing balls at me after calls didn't go their way at an AAU basketball game a number of years ago. When I reported this incident to the police they said there was not much to do.

Senator Roegner has introduced SB-118 Increased Penalty for Assault if the Victim is a Sports Official. We have been informed that Rep Bill Roemer is preparing similar legislation for the House. I feel if a legislation such as this was in place the police could have had a different reaction to this incident. We are losing officials each year because of the actions of misguided adults. Just last week there was an incident in Kentucky where a coach from Michigan was charged with assault for punching an official, giving him a broken collar bone and concussion.

I would ask that you put your support behind this much needed initiative. The legislation that Mr. Roemer is preparing is scheduled for presentation for April 12. It would be great if he could have help as a co-sponsor.

ump44121@gmail.com

216-409-6259

S. Endid, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Copy of Letter to Kenny Yuko

Tim Donovan <ump44121@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 12:33 PM

To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com, mporpora35@gmail.com, "Grimm, Chuck" <chazmg@aol.com>, Tony Bondra <ajbondra@aol.com>

Dear Mr. Yuko:

I have been a sports official in baseball, softball, basketball and football for over 35 years in each sport. Over the years I have seen and been victim of verbal abuse from coaches and parents over the play of children from ages 9 to high school. I have found it necessary to call police to restore peace or remove people from youth games on a couple of occasions.

I was assaulted by players and a coach throwing balls at me after calls didn't go their way at an AAU basketball game a number of years ago. When I reported this incident to the police they said there was not much to do.

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We are losing officials each year because of the actions of misguided adults. Just last week there was an incident in Kentucky where a coach from Michigan was charged with assault for punching an official, giving him a broken collar bone and concussion.

I would ask that you put your support behind this much needed initiative.

Respectfully,

Tim Donovan

1640 Maywood Rd

South Euclid, OH 44121

ump44121@gmail.com

216-409-6259



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

RE: proposed bill to deal with abuse of officials in Ohio

Mark A. Mangione <MMangione@thefedeligroup.com> Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 12:01 PM
To: "pac.comm@yahoo.com" <pac.comm@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Andymilligan2@gmail.com" <Andymilligan2@gmail.com>, "mporpora35@gmail.com" <mporpora35@gmail.com>, "Mark A. Mangione" <MMangione@thefedeligroup.com>

About time. I was physically assaulted (several years ago) at a freshman Lacrosse game in Hudson by a Medina HS parent. I pressed charges and the local court reprimanded this guy harshly. Let's not forget our CYO parents as well.

Giving the email address of the local Senate will make things easier and quicker.

Mark A. Mangione

Strongsville

Account Executive

Property & Casualty Division

The Fedeli Group

5005 Rockside Road, Fifth Floor

Independence, OH 44131

p: 216-643-6688 m: 216-970-8913

www.thefedeligroup.com

Risk Management | Insurance | Employee Benefits

From: pac.comm@yahoo.com <pac.comm@yahoo.com> **On Behalf Of** ArbiterSports
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2019 9:09 AM
To: Mark A. Mangione <MMangione@thefedeligroup.com>
Subject: proposed bill to deal with abuse of officials in Ohio

I just received this email. Please read it over. It affects all officials in Ohio.

We are reaching out to you to ask for your support and help on what we believe is an important piece of legislation that will help protect all officials/referees across the State of Ohio at any level. We have a problem in Ohio with referee retention or just a plain lack of officials/referees. A recent survey by the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) indicates that nearly 80% of new sports officials



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Written testimony of Richard Hanna in support of HB 208

Rick Hanna <rchanna70@att.net>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 4:48 PM

To: "William.Gerhardt@ohiohouse.gov" <William.Gerhardt@ohiohouse.gov>, "rep38@ohiohouse.gov" <rep38@ohiohouse.gov>, Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Prepared for the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee

For consideration in HB 208 Sports Official Proponent Testimony Information

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of the passage of HB208. My name is Richard Hanna and I have been a certified soccer referee in the State of Ohio for 45 years. I have refereed youth, scholastic, collegiate and professional soccer for 49 years and as you might have guessed, I have seen many changes to this game that I love. Unfortunately, the most dominant change that I have seen recently is the decline of respect for officials.

Personally, I have been physically assaulted (sucker punched by a fan), had fingers poked in my chest, received verbal threats and offers to "meet me in the parking lot after the game and we'll settle this". I have had rocks thrown at my car as I left parking lots, been followed out of town by irate fans and two seasons ago had a woman beat on my driver's side window demanding that I step out of my car and explain why I made a certain call that caused her daughter's team to lose the game. I have endured filthy-mouthed parents that have no filters on what they say, who they say it to or who is around to hear their tirades, including their own children. To the players, most are truly embarrassed of what comes out of their parent's mouths and often try and stop the verbal abuse.

My own son, bother and grandson quit the game for one reason--the behavior of the parents/fans. My 16 year old grandson was forced to terminate a U12 soccer match because the parents of the losing team would not, after repeated requests stop, end the harassment. He was literally afraid for his safety to allow the game to continue under the circumstances. The visiting coach had to escort my grandson to his car after seeing that three of the losing team's fathers were following my grandson into the parking lot. The police were called and thankfully were there in minutes to settle the parents down.

I wish I could say that people's behavior is getting better on the fields and courts but I just don't see it. As officials, we are taught to ignore the loud mouthed, trash talking fans, because we know they are always going to be at every event. Horror stories about referee abuse are in the news and on social media every day. We need to send a clear message to everyone that this can and will no longer be tolerated. That is way I am pleading with you to pass HB 208.

Thank you again for allowing me to share some personal examples of referee abuse. I hope that this will help the House to get a clear picture of just what is going on on our athletic fields today.

Respectfully,

Richard M. Hanna
3116 7th Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
(330)928.5880
rchanna70@att.net



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

assault on me by a coach and my successful prosecution of the coach

frank gallina <frankgallina@hotmail.com>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 11:58 PM

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

HI ANDY, I AM SENDING YOU EMAILS DESCRIBING AN ASSAULT ON ME BY A COACH AND MY SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF THAT COACH. I HOPE THIS IS HELPFUL TO YOU IN GETTING THE LEGISLATION PASSED.

THIS FIRST EMAIL DESCRIBES WHAT HAPPENED TO ME IN A 14-YEAR OLD SOFTBALL GAME. IT HAPPENED IN JUNE, 2017.

Tonight I umped a game at Millville #1. There was a team from Lindenwald and the other team was the home team. For most of the game, things were incredibly smooth. The coach for the Millville complained twice about particular pitches but there was nothing unusual.

In the bottom of the 6th, there were girls on 1st & 2nd when the batter hit a long hit to the OF. The first runner scored easily. There was a play on the second runner at the plate. As the catcher was receiving the ball, the runner ran into the catcher full-bore. She did not avoid contact nor did she slide. It caused the catcher to drop the ball but that is irrelevant. I ruled that the runner caused malicious contact and was out.

The manager went of the offensive team went ballistic. He claimed that the catcher did not have the ball. I said that she did. He told me that I was "Fucking terrible." I responded by ejecting him. He continued spouting obscenities. He took several steps towards his dugout and then came back towards me.

I stood my ground because I thought he was going to run into me. He bumped into me. I told him he could not bump into an umpire. While cursing me, he grabbed my ballcap off the top of my head and threw it into my face.

At that point, I said "This game is done right now." I walked off the field, got into my car, and drove home. The next day I called the Butler County Sheriff who charged the coach with assault.

THIS EMAIL DESCRIBES WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE FINALLY GOT TO COURT 5 MONTHS LATER.

On Dec 8, 2017, at 1:05 AM, frank gallina <frankgallina@hotmail.com> wrote:

As you may recall, a coach went ballistic after I made a call at the plate for a 14-years old girls softball game. In his anger, he cursed me, bumped me, and threw my ball cap into my face. I filed charges against him. This took place on June 28.

On Wednesday, October 18, after repeated continuances, I called the prosecutor. I told him to inform the defense attorney that since I am retired, I can make whatever court date they set. I will not go away because of the time change in dates. And, since I live in the community, it is not a problem for me to make it to the court. I also forwarded an email from a witness to the altercation which backed up my version of the incident.

On Monday, October 23, the defense attorney, Frank Schvionne IV, agreed to a November 30 court date. After reviewing the email, he indicated to the prosecutor, Jeff Schlessman, that his client would plead "No Contest." Basically, the defendant could not find any witnesses to refute my story.

A **no contest plea** is a **plea** used in criminal proceedings as an alternative to a guilty or not guilty **plea**, whereby the defendant neither disputes nor admits to doing the crime. This type of **plea**, also known as *nolo contendere*, literally means "I do not wish to contend."

We went to court on November 30.

His attorney, Frank Schvionne IV, made excuses that it was a case of two competitors getting heated. In other words, he equated me with Kevin Smith. Kevin Smith said he would not contest the charge and that he had never been ejected before. The judge, Robert Lyons, said it was good that Kevin acknowledged his guilt. He said that there should not be anything physical on a ball diamond. He asked Kevin Smith if he understood that by pleading "no contest" that he (the judge) would find him guilty. Kevin said "Yes, your honor."

Schvionne then chimed in that sometimes in the heat of the contest things get a little heated but the defendant did not mean anything by it. He made it sound like this was a normal course of business in a ball game.

Judge Lyons asked Prosecutor Jeff Schlessman if there was anything else. Jeff said the victim (me) was here and that he wanted to make a statement. Here is my statement:

I don't have anything against the defendant. However, there is no place for a physical confrontation on the ball field.

Actions that the defendant made are detrimental to the sports world. There are not enough officials because coaches cannot control themselves. As recently as 3 years ago, a referee was murdered in Michigan by an irate coach.

I am here today to represent the officiating world. Many officials, for whatever reason, have not taken coaches to court. I am here for them. If enough officials take these cases to court, maybe there will be fewer cases like this.

Judge Lyons asked Kevin Smith if he had anything to say. He said the account of his actions on the field was not accurate and that after he cursed that the other things did not happen. (If that was true, he should have brought witnesses. I had a witness who emailed me supporting my case. The prosecutor shared my email with Frank Schvionne back in October. At that point, they agreed to plead "no contest" because he could not get any witnesses who would lie for him.)

Judge Lyons then found him guilty of Disorderly Conduct Minor Misdemeanor and fined him \$150 and charged him \$125 for court costs.

Jeff Schlessman met me afterwards and said that was the maximum punishment for that charge. I said that was fine. My goal was to keep him from coaching again. Now that he has a record, his violent action will show up every time he has a background check. He won't be able to do school activities with his kids nor can he coach because he is now a liability risk.

I discussed the costs with several attorneys that are friends of mine. The estimated costs for the defendant ran from \$1,800 to \$3,500. No matter what the final cost to him was, it was a lot of money for 2 minutes of being an idiot.

IF YOU WANT TO DISCUSS THIS CASE WITH ME, MY PHONE NUMBER IS 513-295-8000. I AM HAVING SURGERY ON FRIDAY, JUNE 28, SO I CANNOT TALK ON THAT DATE.

Hamilton, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Referee abuse and assault

adavisson1923@gmail.com <adavisson1923@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 7:17 AM

Dear Ohio Congress,

Please protect our rights of peaceable assembly.

I am an OHSAA soccer referee who just finished my first year. I am limited to schedule games because I am full time Athletic Director, school teacher and soccer coach in Ohio for the past 21 years.

I have witnessed abuse on officials in all types of arenas. It has been mostly parents in stands at various games in Stark County Ohio. I have not witnessed assault of officials at various events because of area Massillon, Canton, North Canton Perry Township, Jackson Township, and Police presence. Even K-9 units arrive at times.

I have witnessed water bottles thrown onto basketball gym floors, chairs heaved across the floor personal verbal attacks of officials who are calling the game, booing, flippant language and verbally attacking officials, and police escorts of officials where parents bewailed officials with abusive language in the past five years. In each of my experiences assault have not occurred due to Police presence. Must the Stark County police be present to every athletic contest to keep the public from abusing and assaulting officials? In January 2019 at a OHSAA D-1 Junior Varsity basketball game in Stark County, a sideline of three disgruntled adults forced an official to call a time out and warn coaches to calm down the fans and players. The sideline foul language and attack caused major confrontation in the stands. The official did nothing wrong, made a call of a foul when four players tussled on the floor over a loose ball. The stoppage lasted over four minutes based on the abuse of the sideline due to an official's decision. The confrontation between the two schools fans prompted the athletic director to contact the Perry Township Police for involvement in the post game fan movement off of the property. The police held the peace of the people from assault. It was the rival between schools and the officials who stand in the gap.

At an OHSAA D-1 athletic soccer regular season match in September 2018 between two Federal League schools, two dads on the same team, standing along a fence verbally abused the official, calling names, demanding his credentials. The athletic director stood between them and the on field soccer official addressing the dads to watch the game and appreciate the sport. The dads kept agitating the official on every call. Then the Stark County Perry Township sent 5 police officers to the game because the agitating dads would not stop. The 3 OHSAA soccer officials were escorted on the opposite side of the field to there vehicles while the public waited to be released from the stadium immediately after the game. The dads joined the crowd over 600 people in the crowd. (I was there learning the officiating of a game. I did not say anything being near them so I could hold my peace. I was assisting the AD while blending in with the fans.) OHSAA officials are qualified people who love the sport, maintain the rules of the game, demonstrating respect to the athletes and coaches who act professional, arriving early to the sight before a game leaving after the game has concluded. We are abused because of the amount of uncontrolled harmful emotions and hostility that individuals have due to disrespect of human beings. Some people are abusive because of disrespect to authority, while some are ignorant of the game rules.

There are many instances in my games I officiate that the actions of a play was too physical— a foul was committed and a decision must be made to stop play and make a judgment about the foul.

Not everyone sees the problem. Sometimes it is only the official in order to keep play safe.

At these moments spectators coaches and even other players are too distanced to the situation and do not see what the officials attempt to keep the game safe. The players have broken a rule, and even become abusive themselves. A Yellow and Red card are on me to use at various moments. A yellow is a warning and prompts the individual to leave the field. They may return at the discretion of the coach. A Red card is a total removal from a game, with no opportunity to return to the game.

We stand within 10-20 yards from the action. Most other people are 40-60 yards away or greater.

I have changed shirts and placed on pants to blend in a crowd after a game to avoid any conflict. When leaving Athletic field I have walked in dark parking lots concerned about these verbal attacks.

Fans can cheer on their teams or yell abusively at officials. We at times do make calls that we ourselves second guess in our minds, but are not hesitant in our decisions. Hesitancy of a call can show vulnerability

second guess in our minds, but are not hesitant in our decisions. Hesitancy of a call can show vulnerability causing an attack. A strong whistle can deter some resistance and a steady voice can calm the crowd. I use my whistle to call for game play and calling fouls. I use my voice to explain the ruling and game play to those around. Not all agree but it was my best decision I made at that time.

We just want to have a good game with fair play, show respect and dignity before, during, and after the game to all people. After all, it's just a game. I enjoy the excessive.

I do not care about the money. If I am not there, the athletic event will not take place.

However, I am aware that I am exposing myself to be publicly abused and be possibly become a Youtube sensation at a junior high, junior varsity, or high school game. Humiliation can take place on the sideline and cyber space at the same time.

The next generation is losing the game of dignity, pride and respect.

I currently have not applied for a second year of OHSAA officiating. I have many other responsibilities and do not wish to deal with the public abuse at this stage of my life.

Place protect our officials. Protect our rights of American citizens.

People have lost the right of peaceable assembly.

Congress, please make the right call now! Our future athletic competitions are at stake if we official's quite due to our risk and safety.

Also, I want my 14 year old son to play now and even officiate if he so chooses, without abuse or assault.

Thank you,
Allen Davisson
Stark County Resident and OHSAA official

Messillon Christian School

Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>
To: adavisson1923@gmail.com

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 8:09 AM

Hi Allen,

Thank you for your detailed email. I just wonder how many AD's and coaches feel this way. I grew up in Stark County (Lake HS) and my coaches would never have put up with the kind of behavior that I see now when I go and do games there now. Anyhow, is there any chance that you could come with us and testify tomorrow in Columbus?

Andy Milligan
Cell/text 330-760-4771
[Quoted text hidden]

adavisson1923@gmail.com <adavisson1923@gmail.com>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 29, 2019 at 3:57 PM

Hi Andy!
I am currently in Clearwater, Florida with my family and was not able to attend the hearing in Columbus. If I was in town I would have been there. How was the House hearing on Thursday? Any legislation pass to help us out? Thank you!
Allen
[Quoted text hidden]

Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>
To: adavisson1923@gmail.com

Sat, Jun 29, 2019 at 5:28 PM

Thank you Allen,
All went well. Still a number of steps to go before they vote on it. I'll keep you posted.

Andy Milligan
Cell/text 330-760-4771



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

My Experiences at Ohio High School Soccer Games

Christopher Schaefer <shafwa03@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 9:38 AM

To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Hello,

My name is Christopher Schaefer and I have been heavily involved in the game of soccer with my son since 2005 as a 4 year old in the Highland Youth Soccer program all the way up through club and ultimately with the Highland High School Varsity team. I am now a referee myself as I hope to bring my knowledge of the game and my passion for helping propel the game forward. It is vitally important to me that I feel safe on the field when attempting to work with the players and coaches to keep the game both safe and fair for all participants. This legislation is of the highest importance to those of us whose motivation is to be an asset to the game. I have personally witnessed a variety of referee abuses from verbal exchanges between coaches and referees, to seeing a player approach and push a referee to the ground violently after disagreeing with a ruling. I have seen parents threaten to and actually chase referees into the parking lot after games when things do not go in the direction they had hoped. As a family man, who cares about this game deeply I hope and trust that your actions will result in the protection we need in order to be safe when working games in the great state of Ohio. I thank you for your time and look forward to your decision,

Chris Schaefer - Referee OHSAA
330-612-4928

Highland, Medina

I am an OHSAA official for baseball, volleyball, football and basketball in the Dayton, Ohio region. On the evening of August 31, 2019 I was working with my crew as the Umpire at the Roger Bacon vs. Dunbar varsity football game at Welcome Stadium in Dayton, Ohio. In the 2nd quarter of the game a player from Dunbar was called for a personal foul after pushing a Roger Bacon player after the whistle to stop play. Myself and the back judge both threw flags for the penalty. The player did not think the call was fair and was very incensed and cursing. At this point I (as shown in the video released) motioned the player off the field and told him he needed to go off for a play to calm down. The player was not being ejected from the game, just being sent to the sideline for a play to call down. At this time the player says "F you" and then headbutts me. A couple of his teammates get between us as I am walking away and they start walking towards the sideline. The same player takes off his helmet and then starts towards the referee (white hat). More players and coaches come on the field to get him away from the official and get him to the sideline. After this, we as the crew made the decision to cancel the rest of the game for our safety.

The police were called and a report was filed. The player is 17. The officers said that night he would be picked up and placed in juvenile detention, but would be out probably Tuesday because of the holiday Monday. I met with detectives on Thursday, September 5th and they are waiting to get my medical records from the ER and family doctor before filing charges. As of now I believe they are going to try for assault with a deadly weapon.

We ended up going to the ER the next day, Sunday, September 1st, to be checked over and they ordered CT scans and I was diagnosed with a concussion. The headaches the first couple of days were worse than I have ever had. Two weeks later I still have occasional headaches. I am a very active person, and to not be able to do much at all for a week after was extremely hard for me. Bright lights, too much tv and sound would make my head pound. My wife had to do a lot for me all while working and taking care of our household.

I was not able to officiate at all for over a week and at first just went back to volleyball, going back to football after almost 2 weeks. At the time I was driving for Uber/Lyft since losing my job back in March and did not go back because I wanted to be 100% confident in having passengers in my vehicle first. Thankfully, I am able to start a new job Monday, September 16th and am able to take ibuprofen for when I do get headaches. We have already used savings while I have been out of work and then I was not able to make any money through driving or officiating. Not being able to work and provide for my family was very hard.

Through all of this I have missed out on roughly \$2,500 income through driving and officiating. Now we are also faced with potentially thousands of medical bills from the ER and testing. Along with medications and subsequent doctor visits. I have to go back to the doctor this week for hopefully my last follow up.

Most likely this young man is going to get away with basically a slap on the wrist after causing me much physical/emotional pain and financial hardship. He could have caused so much more damage, even death from this headbutt. I was lucky to get a concussion, but the next person may not be.

I firmly believe I, and other officials like me should be given the same protections as teachers. If there are not serious consequences people will think actions like this football player are okay. They can get away with retaliating for a bad call like it is no big deal. I believe overall sports will suffer if this is not passed.

Sincerely,

Scott Bistrek

Jamestown, OH

Good morning. Thank you for listening to my testimony on SB118.

On the evening of August 31, 2019 I was sitting at home and got a text from my husband that said "Waiting on Dayton PD. I got head butted intentionally by a Dunbar player, we canceled the game". I cannot fully explain the thoughts that went through my head reading that. I asked if he was okay and if I needed to come pick him up. Scott said he was okay and his crew was waiting with him until he was done with the police and could head home. You may be asking yourself why did he just text his wife? I believe it was because he could keep his emotions in check with just a text. Scott called when he was on his way home and his first words were honey, I was scared and he started crying. My husband, a Desert Storm combat veteran, had been scared and was now crying. He explained to me what had happened and said he felt defenseless and wasn't sure if the player's teammates would side with him and they would come after the officials or what. Thankfully the other players came between them and kept anything further from happening.

Scott had a headache when he got home, but was hopeful it would be gone when he got up the next morning. It wasn't, so he took a prescribed ibuprofen, but the headache was still there hours later. We decided it would be best for him to get checked out by a professional, make sure everything was essentially okay. The ER doctor ordered CT scans to be sure there were no bone fractures or a brain bleed. Thankfully all was okay there and he was able to walk away with a concussion, and medications. We actually had a family get together that evening, but he was only able to go, eat and then he returned home within half an hour. Not only was his head killing him, but talking about it and watching the video with family was bringing it all back.

After he came home and over the next few days we discussed it more than we wanted to. He talked of quitting officiating all together. This man, who has missed countless family gatherings over the years, and spent so much time away from home was thinking of walking away all together because of the actions of one young man. Neither one of us slept well over the next few evenings between his bad dreams and my making sure he was okay. He is almost always doing something and sitting at home, limiting tv and phone time, taking things easy so his brain could heal were very hard for him.

Not only was he physically injured, but the emotional took its toll also. He had to relive it every time someone asked about it. He struggled with deciding to go back and because of this he was unable to work. He had been driving for Uber and Lyft since he lost his job in March, but he was not able to drive and never did go back because he didn't feel 100% confident taking passengers even when his headaches started getting better. To know he wasn't able to bring in any money was probably one of the hardest things for him. Between officiating and what he could have potentially made driving he lost out on probably \$2,500. Now, we are also facing medical bills. We had to get a insurance policy with a high deductible for while he was out of work since my employer doesn't offer insurance so we will probably be responsible for a couple thousand dollars in medical bills and prescriptions from the ER and follow up doctor visits. Add that to the already lost income and we're looking at losing more than he makes officiating football in a season.

He was finally able to return to football this past weekend and is controlling his headaches with ibuprofen but I still worry. I don't want him to have a set back. I feel like I now need to be at every game in case something happens. As a wife/family member of an official you know they could get hurt, but you never think it will happen in this matter. He accidentally got rolled up on by a player and sprained his MCL last season, but an injury like that is 'normal'. You don't expect someone to purposefully attempt to injure someone. I try to be supportive, especially because I know how much he loves football, and I am proud he is able to do Friday Night Lights but now I worry more. Watching the video makes me sick to my stomach.

After this happened, we started looking into what charges could possibly be filed. We found information on these bills trying to be passed. I strongly believe my husband's case should be charged as a felony with a deadly weapon. I also believe he should be charged as an adult even though he is 17. I personally believe that these officials should be given the same protections that teachers, correction officers, fire fighters, etc. have in Ohio. Scott and his fellow officials are doing this for the love of the games, often times traveling quite far (we have gone 3 hours round trip) for little pay. We are very lucky and thankful that the player did not have more momentum on the headbutt and that Scott only received a concussion. It could have been SO much worse.

I understand this young man probably did it in the heat of the moment, but that is no excuse. I fully believe people should be held responsible for their actions. If Scott had laid a hand on a player I can only imagine the consequences. The young man will probably walk away with what is essentially a slap on the wrist when he could have potentially killed my husband. We are still waiting to see what charges

• will be filed as the detectives were waiting on his medical records before filing charges.

I (we) hope that legislation passes sooner rather than later to give officials the protection they need in the future. We understand that things will still happen, but maybe people will think twice if there are stiffer penalties, if they know there are consequences to their actions. Sports officials need protection. The verbal abuse they take on a daily/nightly basis from fans/parents/coaches and players is enough already, they shouldn't have to worry about being assaulted also. Thank you,

Angela Bistrek

Good morning, thank you for taking the time to listen to my statement regarding House Bill 44

I am an OHSAA official for baseball, volleyball, football and basketball in the Dayton, Ohio region. On the evening of Saturday, August 31, 2019 I was working with my crew as the Umpire at the Roger Bacon vs. Dunbar varsity football game at Welcome Stadium in Dayton, Ohio. During this game, a player disagreed with a call and head butt me on the right side of my face with his helmet on. The police were called and a report was filed. The player was 17 years old, technically a juvenile.

I ended up going to the ER the next day. They ordered CT scans and I was diagnosed with a concussion. Bright lights and sound would make my head pound. After a few weeks I was still having occasional headaches managed with just ibuprofen. I also had sleep, memory, speech and anger issues. I wasn't fully relieved of my symptoms for a couple of months.

Through all of this I missed out on roughly \$2,500 income through work and officiating. I also had to pay all of the medical bills while waiting for insurance to be straightened out. Thankfully, insurance finally reimbursed for all but the deductible but I am still out over \$3,000. The stress of having no income, not providing for my family and wondering how we are going to cover the medical bills was probably the hardest part of this.

Mentally, this whole experience was extremely hard also. I struggled with the decision to stop officiating altogether. Something I have been doing for 20 years, and after one horrible incident I was wondering if I could go back. Especially to football, a sport I love. Now, every time I officiate, I think of this incident. I wonder if something will happen. My wife wonders if something will happen. When I went back to officiating, my wife wanted to attend every event because she was worried. This didn't only happen to me, it happened to both of us.

As an official, and family member of an official, you know there is potential to be injured during a game. You do not think that injury is going to be the result of the deliberate actions of someone though. As officials we expect to be yelled at, our family expects it and you learn to deal with it. You do not expect to be assaulted or threatened. Both of which I believe are happening more lately. I have officiated a basketball game that we had to delay until someone was removed after threatening to come back with a gun and shoot one of my partners. I have now been physically assaulted. There need to be consequences to these actions.

The young man was charged with felonious assault causing serious physical harm. There was a motion filed to transfer him to adult court but that was denied by the judge. Finally, on December 4, 2020 he was found delinquent of felonious assault. On January 28, 2021 he was only sentenced with six months probation. During which he has to attend anger management classes, maintain his employment, and write me an apology letter. I was also awarded \$500 restitution, the maximum in juvenile court, that he has to work off through the system. As of today, I have received nothing. He could have caused so much more damage, even death from this headbutt. There could be long term damage that I will have to face in the future. I firmly believe officials should be given the same protections as teachers, bus drivers, etc. We are paid by the schools, but are not considered employees of the schools and not offered the same protections they are. If there are not more serious consequences people will think actions like this are not a big deal. They can get away with retaliating for a bad call with very little punishment. I believe overall sports will suffer if this is not passed.

Sincerely,
Scott Bistrek

Good morning Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland and members of the Criminal Justice Committee.

My name is Doug Thompson, I'm a licensed official for the Ohio High School Athletic Association. I've been an official for the past seven years for basketball and eight years for baseball.

On January 19, 2020, I was a referee at Graham Middle School in St. Paris, Ohio. My hometown for 55 years. I was refereeing a 5th grade girls' basketball game.

There was a couple minutes left in the game and somethings were being said about some calls that were being made. There was an interruption in the game and I noticed a spectator looking at me in the front row, of where the comments were coming from. The spectator had a look at me of complete anger. I walked over to him, and ask if there was a problem, and before he could even say anything another spectator just to my right and a couple of rows up, said "Yes there is a problem, you need to learn how to F...ing ref" I told him to leave-go! He then flipped me the middle finger and said F...You again. While jumping to the floor and violently head butting me in the face.

I was scared for my life. I was only trying to keep him from hurting me more. I had neck surgery about 10 years ago where I had a disc removed and a new one put in with metal. Ever since this head-butt assault, my neck has hurt and I have had numbness in my left arm and left hand. I continue to have pain in the upper back and shoulder area, I also have flashes and headaches. I have had to miss multiple games and pass up on future assignments because of this assault.

I have paid over \$700 in x-rays, MRI's and doctor's visits. My doctor says that he believes that I have a concussion with the symptoms that I had described. I blew blood from my nose for 3 days. I am fearful that my neck has been re-injured due to the numbness in my arm and hand. Only time will tell the severity of my injuries.

Today, I am having problems more with the mental side of this assault. I have lost my edge and I am always looking over my shoulder. I feel like I am being watched. I have given games back so I would not have to ref the younger kids, that seems to be where the trouble is for me.

I currently not have health insurance. The combination of lost wages, mounting medical expenses and my mental state have me considering whether or not I am going to continue with refereeing.

I urge you to pass this legislation. I believe it will be a step forward in addressing the declining sportsmanship that we are experiencing from spectators at all levels youth sporting events.

Thank you for your consideration and I am open to any questions that the committee may have for me.

Marion, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

assault

Pam Schultz <pschultz@woh.rr.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 4, 2019 at 6:34 PM

Andy:

I too was assaulted this summer during a USA softball game at Berliner Softball fields in Columbus, Ohio. I have spoken with Phil Plummer who is on the committee that has this bill. The bill has gone through two hearings so far.

Also, I had a meeting with Senator Coley of Ohio regarding this issue about two weeks ago. He too, is supporting this bill. I hope this bill passes to protect all officials. If not, I'm afraid we may lose officials which we can't afford.

Thank you,

Pam Schultz, 158771
937-475-7659

Sent from my iPad

Vandalia, OH
Phil Plummer



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Pending Ohio legislation regarding assault on sports officials (45011,)

allen whisman <akw3512@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 31, 2019 at 5:06 PM

To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Hi,

Last Basketball season, my partner was assaulted in the gym during and after the game.. I did see either touching and punch, but the head coach followed us to our cars and threaten to beat us.. I dialed 911 to get the coach to leave us alone and run. But we filed our reports with Ohsaa and heard from the grape vine that the coach was removed from being able to coach in Ohio again..

I can relay this to others, if you like

I did email the Senator.

Allen whisman

[Quoted text hidden]

Hamilton Ohio



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Bill

RICHARD HILL <thelegend69@sbcglobal.net>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 4, 2019 at 7:35 PM

This situation needs to be dealt with some serious penalties. I have been followed to the car and shoved by an upset fan.

Gene Hill OHSSA #166644
15 years of service

Sent from my iPhone

Piqua, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

ACTION REQUIRED Assault Law Update

David Collier <dacna2006@yahoo.com>

Sun, Jun 23, 2019 at 12:48 PM

Reply-To: "dacna2006@yahoo.com" <dacna2006@yahoo.com>

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been officiating for the past 19 to 20 years. Prior to that I coached Middle School Level Basketball for 8 years. That being said, I have witnessed several brawls instigated by disgruntled fans.

I personally have been harassed by irrational parents and fans. On one occasion I was followed to my car and threatened by upset fans. I have been called out of my name, from being called bigot, to racist, cheater to homer and other really explicit names which I do not care to write.

I am supportive of this House Bill 208 in order to support order within all High School sports in general. The level of officials being attacked over the past 10 years has escalated to epidemic levels.

Thank you for all officials, across all sports and levels for the consideration of stiffer consequences for such actions.

Sincerely,

David Collier
Basketball/Volleyball Official
Ohio Permit #207179
Email: dacna2006@yahoo.com

Loveland, OH

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Rep Jean Schmidt

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Karol Warden" <karolwarden@hotmail.com>

To: "Michael Porpora" <mporpora@neo.rr.com>, "zvbBahner" <philip.bahner@spartech.com>, "BVBBahr" <fred.bahr.cinci@gmail.com>, "joe.baughman@kandkinsurance.com" <joe.baughman@kandkinsurance.com>, "zvbBender" <jabender2@aol.com>, "GINABENNING@YAHOO.COM" <GINABENNING@YAHOO.COM>, "Barbbirks12@gmail.com" <Barbbirks12@gmail.com>, "abitter21@yahoo.com" <abitter21@yahoo.com>, "Pbolling42" <pbolling42@aol.com>, "Diamond Jim 49" <jbrady0620@gmail.com>, "BVVBGBueker" <thebuekers@cinci.rr.com>, "Jamie Cavileer Cavileer" <jvcavileer5@gmail.com>, "dacna2006@yahoo.com" <dacna2006@yahoo.com>, "kcmobley238@gmail.com" <kcmobley238@gmail.com>, "KCOOPERCINCY@AOL.COM" <KCOOPERCINCY@AOL.COM>, "bcunning20@aol.com" <bcunning20@aol.com>, "BVBJDavis" <jdavis5472@yahoo.com>, "dunwoor" <dunwoor@gmail.com>, "mikepresents@aol.com" <mikepresents@aol.com>, "Isedmonds95@gmail.com" <Isedmonds95@gmail.com>, "zvbSedmonds" <sedmonds1127@gmail.com>, "donnieta edwards" <donnieta_e@hotmail.com>, "paul elliot" <paulelliott49@hotmail.com>, "ZVBEuler" <reuler1@yahoo.com>, "gavideo3@yahoo.com" <gavideo3@yahoo.com>, "zvbJim Farmer" <jimtheref1937@yahoo.com>, "lindseyfreson@gmail.com" <lindseyfreson@gmail.com>, "zvbPatti Fronk" <pfronk@twc.com>, "zvbfrank gallina" <frankgallina@hotmail.com>, "BVBGallo" <kag12345@cinci.rr.com>, "zvbKaren Games" <kgames@fuse.net>, "zvbDeb Gentile" <whscoachg@aol.com>, "dgraveswriter@yahoo.com" <dgraveswriter@yahoo.com>, "BVBHalley" <john.halley72@yahoo.com>, "ktbharvey@gmail.com" <ktbharvey@gmail.com>, "HLHensley.Official22@gmail.com" <HLHensley.Official22@gmail.com>,



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

From Ed Moore

Dj Dobrindt <hoopsrefclass16@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Sun, Jun 23, 2019 at 4:45 PM

I believe that this is a good step towards protecting officials. In 54 years of officiating basketball, I can say that I have only had two instances where I had problems. These were both lower-level games and had to do with parents. In one case, I was challenged to a fight outside the gymnasium with one of the fathers. Another time when I was protecting my fellow official, I was verbally attacked and threatened because of the parents daughters popularity. I had to have him removed from the gymnasium. Those are the only two instances I can recall. I am definitely in favor of protecting officials, especially younger ones. I actually had one younger official quit on me at halftime. It really was not that bad of a game, he just was not cut out for officiating.

Ed Moore OHSAA#101415

Canfield, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Fwd: SB-118.docx

Scott Sandvick <scottsandvick@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 11:01 AM
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com, mporpora35@gmail.com
Cc: Ron Knight <ronknight46@hotmail.com>, Denny Morris <Dmorris005@woh.rr.com>, Scott Sandvick <ScottSandvick@gmail.com>


Andy/Michael. Just wanted to send you a copy of what I submitted to Rep Roegner and Sen Roemer as well as Gov DeWine.

Scott Sandvick

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Scott Sandvick** <Scott.Sandvick@fivesgroup.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 10:41 AM
Subject: SB-118.docx
To: Scott Sandvick <scottsandvick@gmail.com>

=
Scott Sandvick
216-849-4528
ScottSandvick@gmail.com

Medina

 **SB-118.docx**
14K

SB-118 Increased Penalty for Assault if the Victim is a Sports Official

Mr. Roemer
Ms. Roegner
Mr. DeWine

To all, I am writing you in support SB-118, Increased penalty for assault on a sports official. As you may have guessed I am a sports official in the state of Ohio. The coming year will be my 23rd officiating Interscholastic High School sports. I also have several years officiating Collegiate sports.

I'm sure we are all aware of the recent stories of unacceptable behavior during interscholastic sporting contests. Most of us know someone who has been directly affected by violence during those contests. It's in the news almost daily now. Unfortunately, it has become "acceptable" to act without morals if you have paid the price of admission. Our society has become an "it's not my fault" entity. When teams or individuals lose there is no inward reflection of what I could have done better. It's always someone else's fault. Blaming of the officials is the go to reason. Not sure when we lost the ability to turn those moments into learning and growing. Life is not easy. Everyone encounters setbacks in their life. Those who move forward and excel learn from those moments. Those who blame others may never progress.

I do believe that needing to introduce a bill for stiffer penalties isn't what our society needs. We really need to look at our actions and do the right thing. Of course, we are far past that. Hence the reason to impose said penalties. We need more of a deterrent to negative behavior. Again, stiffer penalties should not be the reason for civility but if there is nothing else so be it.

As an official I can tell you this hobby we have can be rewarding. I and my fellow officials head to these contests knowing we will be ridiculed and chastised for every decision. Knowing this we still hold ourselves to that higher standard. We are there to give the men and women the fairest, most impartial judgements we can. My fellow officials have the utmost integrity. We cannot allow emotions to enter our performance. There is a famous quote that states, "you know what's wrong with officials, you just don't care who wins". That is true. We must not have a stake in the game. What we truly care about is doing our absolute best no matter the scrutiny put upon us.

We are the authoritative representative for these contests. We must be treated as such or these contests become mayhem. School administrations should be proactive in addressing unruly fans but without some form of punishment the behavior continues to degrade. The OHSAA recently sent a mass letter telling parents to "Cool It". Sports officials are no longer seeing this advocacy as admirable. They are seeing this as life threatening. If this continues there will be no officials which means no more contests. Interscholastic sports can teach life lessons if used correctly. Our society is forgetting the benefits of fair play. Of how defeat can be a learning event. How winning can be a learning event.

Most who are involved in these contests are decent people. It is as in any cross section of any activity that the few are the ones that make the poor decisions. We must punish them accordingly and maybe stem the tide of poor behavior including violence.

It's time that people are held responsible for their actions. Please support the passing of SB-118. You have my support.

Scott J. Sandvick



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Support for HB 208

Kelly Dougan <k.dougan@prasco.com>

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 9:04 AM

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

I am a Ohio licensed basketball official. I officiate junior high and high school basketball games that are OHSAA games. I also officiate in youth basketball leagues as well as AAU leagues and tournaments. While I am paid for my services, I am not handsomely paid. I love the game of basketball and I know that officials are needed for basketball games to be played. I consider myself as providing a very necessary service for the youth of Ohio. However, I realize that in doing my job every call I make is open for debate. However, I make each call to the best of my ability. I believe I do a good job, but it is a fast game with a lot going on the floor and often we as officials don't have the best view of every single play. Nonetheless, I always do my best and remain completely impartial. That doesn't mean I am 100% right on 100% of the calls I make and don't make. However, we as officials deserve respect and some protection from those who take the game a bit too seriously. I have been in situations where I was concerned for my physical safety. I have had both parents and coaches come on the floor after me or one of my partners. I believe that passing this bill will be helpful in preventing such situations from occurring. It is a sad statement about society that we have to do this, but I have lived it, and I know that it is necessary.

Thank you,

Kelly Dougan

513-377-6486

Lebanon, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

legislation

David Konczal <lakerbasketballkonczal@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 10:44 AM

Andy:

All one needs to do is to watch the video of the Youngstown Liberty boys basketball coach assault and physically attack an official on June 10, 2019 at summer league and as per usual no action taken by the school district. I do believe schools must be accountable for action (s) of their coaches also.

Thanks

*David R. Konczal**permit # 121908 (basketball)*

Warren, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Officials protection bill

Connie Steinbrunner <ouconnie78@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 10:59 AM

I am Connie Steinbrunner, I have been officiating High School Sports for close to 50 years now. I have not been physically abuse but I have verbally.

I have been Rules Interpreter for softball and volleyball for many years in the Northwest District. I also held volleyball license training classes.

So I do know how hard it is to get and keep officials. The coaches and players in our area are great but the parents need the restrictions or rules to go by.

Please pass this bill for the kids and for future sports programs.

Thank you, Connie Steinbrunner 105578

Celina, off



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Personal Account as a OHSAA official

Fred Bahr <fred.bahr.cinci@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Sun, Jun 23, 2019 at 12:39 PM

Andy-

After a girls volleyball game, i was threatened. I was approached by a man proclaiming to be the grandfather of one of the players in the match. I made a call that he didn't like. His granddaughter's team lost the match.

He said these words: "You better watch out boy, I am going to run your ass off the road." Needless to say, I was shaken. I drove home very carefully that evening. I did not take any matches at that school for several years following.

--
Thanks.
Fred Bahr
OHSAA Permit 171280
9139 Fidelis Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45242
H - (513) 984-9139



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Thanks for your email Andy

tperchan@woh.rr.com <tperchan@woh.rr.com>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 30, 2019 at 9:56 AM

Andy,

Thanks for your email and for moving this concern forward to our legislators in Columbus. Unfortunately like many officials, over the course of my 45 years of football officiating I have been involved in numerous near misses of being assaulted personally. We have been barricaded in a locker room, escorted by a sheriff's department off the field and out to the county line, had a stadium vacated by the police before we could leave the locker room, etc., etc., etc.

Please keep me posted on your progress and let me know what else I can do, and my local association in Dayton to support the passage of this important bill.

Thanks for all you do for the love of the sport.

Sincerely,

Tom Perchan

Dayton, OH

From: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:24 PM
To: tperchan@woh.rr.com; Lori A. Dicesare <loridicesare@howardhanna.com>
Subject: Fwd: I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.

Hi Tom,

Lori sent to me the response that you received from your Senator regarding sports officials assault legislation.

A fellow soccer referee and I drafted this legislation about 2 months ago and met with my Ohio Senator, Kristina Roegner, to present our solution to this problem. Within 2 weeks, Senator Roegner had filed SB 118 and then a month later a bipartisan bill was introduced into the Ohio House as HB 208 by Rep's Bill Roemer(R) and Joe Miller(D).

Most likely, you received my request through OHSAA who forwarded my letter to all Ohio sports officials asking them to contact their State reps letting them know that you support this bill. Thank you for doing that and for sending me this response.

I will be going down to the Statehouse in May to speak in from of the Senate Judiciary Committee as the proponent of the bill at which time I will meet with your Senator, Peggy Lehner.

mind as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you again for your correspondence. If you have any questions or concerns in the future regarding state issues, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Peggy Lehner
State Senator
6th District

-----Original Message-----

From: tperchan@woh.rr.com [mailto:tperchan@woh.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:26 PM

To: State Senator Peggy Lehner

Subject: I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.

First Name : Thomas

Last Name : Perchan

Address : 2127 Hunters Bluff Court

City : Dayton

State : OH

Zip : 45458

Phone : (937) 886-1469

Email : tperchan@woh.rr.com

Subject :

I want to share my thoughts on an issue or piece of legislation.

Message :

Dear Senator Lehner:

I am writing in support of the passage of Senate Bill 118 which deals with assaults on sport's officials. I have been officiating high school football for 45 years and I am seeing more evidence of officiating assaults in Ohio and across the country. I believe that making the law stronger, and the penalties greater for this type of behavior might help reduce the occurrence of assaults on officials. We continue to loose officials every year because of the possibility of assault during games, and we are not attracting any new young officials partially for the same reason. We officiate these games to the best of our ability and spend our own personal time attending meetings, clinics, and individual study in an attempt to do the best job we can. I can speak for my officiating brothers here in the Dayton area in that we officiate not for the money or glory, but for our love of the game and the kids. I hope you will support this legislation. Sincerely, Tom Perchan Centerville,Oh

[Howard Hanna. Find out what YOUR HOME is really worth.]
Howard Hanna. Find out what YOUR HOME is really worth.

The information contained in this transmission including any attached documentation is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message

6/26/19

RE: HB208

Dear Legislators:

My name is Thomas Perchan, and I have been a football official in Ohio for 44 years. I am writing in support of House Bill 208. I personally have been confronted by both coaches, parents, and spectators both on and off the field over the years. In one instance an angry parent, after a Saturday morning JV football game, waited for me off the field and told me he wanted to punch me in the mouth. Most non-varsity contests don't offer security and thankfully one of my fellow officials was there with me and we averted a physical confrontation. In another situation a group of angry varsity coaches barricaded our locker room doors after the game so we couldn't leave. We had another situation at a varsity game where our dressing facility was not adjacent to the field and we had to be escorted by the sheriff's department both to and from our locker room, and all the way to the county line before they released us. These are but a few of the moments that I have been concerned about my, and my crew's physical safety during and after a ball game.

I do believe passage of this legislation which makes the penalty for assaulting a sport's official a more serious offense may avert this type of situation from happening in the future. We are having a difficult time recruiting young men and women for sport's officiating, and one of the largest reasons given is the fear of being assaulted. If we cannot avoid assaults from happening, we may not be able to offer the youth of Ohio any sports activity that will be officiated by any trained, skilled, and certified officials.

I would ask that you seriously consider passage of HB 208. I believe the future of sport's officiating in Ohio depends on it.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Thomas Perchan OHSAA permit# 105871



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Fwd: Assault Law Update

Ken Cloud <kennethcloud3@yahoo.com>
Cc: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 1:30 PM

Hi Andy,

Below is a testimony of mine.

2/23/2019

Boys Basketball, Centerville Div 1 Sectionals
Site: Trotwood-Madison High School
Schools playing: Belmont versus Butler

My partners and me were in the middle of a highly talented match-up and an intense game from the very beginning. When we came out of our locker room to begin the second half, an employee from Trotwood-Madison that was sitting on one end of the court said to us, "come on guys, you need to call the same fouls on this end as you are on the other end." At the time, I thought he was joking. But as the game went on, it intensified, and this individual also became mouthier towards us. When I had an opportunity I told him that he needed to stop, well then he became very angry. I addressed the Trotwood-Madison Athletic Director as well as the site manager for this game, and told them that an employee of Trotwood-Madison representing the school this night should not be cheering for Belmont. The situation was very uncomfortable for the remainder of the game, as the individual continued to stare and also grin at me. After the game ended, my partners and me headed back to our locker room. This individual was waiting in the back hallway, he had changed his clothes, and he immediately began yelling obscenities at me. The Athletic Director and site manager confronted him, but that did not stop him as he continued yelling at them. Fortunately this situation never escalated past verbal abuse, but this was the most uncomfortable situation I have ever been in officiating high school basketball, and I plan on never returning to Trotwood-Madison.

Respectfully,
Ken Cloud

MORROW, OH

[Quoted text hidden]



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

HB 208

Smart, Jim S <jssmart@bwxt.com>

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 1:35 PM

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

I would like to submit my support for HB 208. I will not be able to personally attend the upcoming hearing in Columbus. But I also do not want to miss an opportunity to show support to much needed legislation.

I have been a licensed OHSAA basketball official for 20 years. I have participated in every level of competition from very young youth leagues, adult recreation leagues and many years at the high school varsity level. As with many aspects of our evolving society, the accepted level of athlete, coach, parent and general spectator behavior has been eroding. Each year a new "low" has become the accepted standard. From profanity to outright threats of physical harm I have experienced it all. Fortunately at 6'3" 225 pounds most people stop short of actual physical contact with me. But there have been a few instances after a contest that I have dropped by gear bag to be prepared for the worst.

For the past 7 years I have had the honor to teach aspiring officials the rules of Basketball to become licensed in the State of Ohio. The following numbers are fairly constant with each year's class; 50% will not continue past their first season and within 2 years half of those remaining will give up their license. The number 1 reason is fan behavior. Most are not prepared for the new "normal" behavior. Some leave for personal reasons; new job/time, moving out of the area etc. But when pressed for their thoughts, concern for their personal safety is by far the number 1 reason. It is no wonder that state after state is reporting a shortage of qualified individuals to officiate all levels of sporting contests.

It does not take long to see new examples of adults behaving poorly when it comes to youth sports. It seems that new videos hit the news and the internet weekly of situations quickly escalating to violent outcomes. With HB 208 there can be a legal avenue to hold individuals responsible for their behavior. I do not believe this will eliminate the problem. But once it is clear that this type of behavior has serious consequences, hopefully fans will think before acting. I have adopted a new saying which I picked from another veteran official. "If you permit the behavior, you promote the behavior". It is time enact a legal response to those who continue to display violent behavior.

Jim Smart

OHSAA # 158708

Barberton, OH, TAVIA Galonski

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Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

House Bill legislation

Jim Gillespie <jimg31@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 1:30 PM

Hello Andy,

I have witnessed several of my colleagues get injured as a result of assaults during my 25 years as a baseball and fast pitch umpire. These altercations have NEVER happened during an interscholastic game. The times that I have witnessed these situations have been during select baseball/softball games and tournaments. Things have evolved over the years that most umpires now carry their cell phones during a game, just in case, an altercation happens and we must call 911. I believe that is a very sad fact in the world of sports in 2019. Foremost, restraint needs to be exercised by all parties as a means to prevent these situations.

Officials must use proactive umpiring in the pregame conferences, during the game, and upon leaving the field of play. Also, any official worth his/her "salt" can not have "rabbit ears" and take it personally when fans and coaches express their opinions. Parents, coaches and athletes need to be held accountable when their actions cross the line of civility. Unfortunately, there is a false sense of entitlement that has engulfed our society in recent years. Parents are living vicariously, today, through their children. And whenever situations develop that deter from the "sweat equity", personal time and money invested in their child's development things have a tendency to turn "ugly" in an instant.

Briefly, I had a situation a week ago during a 17 u national tournament where a head coach charged at me because a close call at the plate went against his team. He charged cursing and bumped me intentionally to escalate this situation. I calmly told the coach that he had "crossed the line of civility and made this situation personal". He then tried to further intimidate me and stated "what are you going to do about it Big Man?" At which point I felt threatened and I ejected him. And as he left the field of play he kept screaming at me that now I was a "Really Big Man" for tossing him. This situation could have easily turned into a brawl. But I thanked God that I used my common sense and restraint to diffuse the situation. So in closing, Andy, I would like to say that all of us are accountable for our actions as adults in a civil society. If any of us (officials, coaches, parents and athletes) cross the line of civility and mutual respect for others, there must be a penalty severe enough to punish the violators of the people who think that they are above this universal law.

I thank you for your time. I wish I could be in Columbus on Thursday, 6/27. But I am already assigned to umpire games in a national baseball tournament in the Cincinnati area.

Best of luck to you.

Jim Gillespie
Butler County Umpires Association
Permit # 152519
Email: jimg31@gmail.com
Cell/text 513-227-4128

Hamilton, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Wrestling Testimony

Jeffrey Sitler <jlsitler17@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 3:29 PM

Good afternoon Andy,

This past 18-19 wrestling season I had to eject a parent that came to the edge of the mat during a varsity tournament. The Red wrestler is losing 5-4 and attempts a takedown, the Green wrestler commits a technical violation of grabbing the uniform to stop Red's attempt. I blow the whistle to stop action and award the point. Before I can award the point Red's father is at my back on the edge of the mat screaming at me that time hadn't expired and how could I stop the action. I turn and tell him to go sit down. He informs me I can't tell him what to do, so I tell him go sit down and shut up, he tells me he will do no such thing, I tell the wrestlers to go to their coaches and wrestling will continue when he leaves the building because he has now been ejected. After several minutes he finally leaves and I award the point to make the score 5-5, and we continue, but I was shocked at how fast I had someone directly behind me at the edge of the mat. All my focus is on the individuals on the mat, not someone coming out of the stands to "posture up" on my call. Funny part is, had the father kept his mouth shut he would have seen his son win the match in overtime.

The school's AD told me at the end of the day not to worry about it, that parent gets ejected a lot!

Jeff Sitler
937-478-9498
OHSAA official #160266

Beaver creek, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

House Bill 208... a few quick thoughts

Kirk Knollman <bnzs2@usa.net>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com
Cc: Kag12345 <Kag12345@cinci.rr.com>

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 3:29 PM

Andy:

I'd like to tell you a big overall picture of my experience of coaching 31 teams for my 10U son Tyler, 5 sports and second year (132 games) of being a OHSAA baseball umpire (class 1 in 2020).

As a coach, one of the first baseball assistants told me "just keep the parents off of me!" The problem of coach (daddy ball), parents and then referees is particularly bad under age 12--because players near 12 years old have a high rate of giving up sports (for a multitude of reasons). As umpires we do not like the younger games because every little event is high drama. What I find in the older ages--players truly want to play, and the parents are seasoned after years of driving/watching to encourage yet enjoy the ride.

My 84 year young dad asked me this Father's Day "why do you do it?". It's not because I miss playing, or want to relive my glory--it's to PROTECT my son. Protect him from the monsters who simply are the only parent(s) who will step up and try to coach-- you need more stringent qualifications (like lacrosse) where live training must happen, as well as hours of online classes--not just concussion. The bad actors, in fact, know they are bad actors and will not change. Letting them influence the minds of 4-12 year olds is simply a bad idea--these are the guys on youtube videos that start with "losing his mind"--then the umpires have to try to restore what little sanity that coach left.

Are we at risk---not before a game, but certainly after. Making this a felony will not stop the truly bad element--and how could you possibly enforce that at every baseball diamond/sports arena. It's no wonder that fewer and fewer want to umpire, and thus more games get cancelled for lack of quality officials. I would suggest the mandatory signs on each backstop of the existence and ramifications of this bill--and make the first time offense serious.

I do this to protect my son--and yet no one protects us. The culture needs to change--it's great that these efforts see the issue and are trying to make the situation better.

Thanks so much and take care, Kirk Knollman

Mainville, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

(no subject)

Earl Smith <elawards@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jun 24, 2019 at 10:25 PM

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

My name is Earl Smith. I retired after last year of 36 years umpiring baseball and softball. I received this from Dave Henry and I was a member of Darke County umpires for many years. This is the greatest thing that can happen for officials of all ages. All organizations are trying to get young people to officiate. Not that something will happen to them but it does give them a bigger leg to stand on. People have no clue about officiating and know no rules and just want to react some how. I hope this info will help legislators pass what we need. elawards@hotmail.com

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S@6 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SPECTATOR ASSAULTS

Brian <brianlee@sssnet.com>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 6:36 AM

To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

MY EXPERIENCE WITH THESE SITUATIONS ARE MULTIPLE.IT NEVER CAME TO A PHYSICAL ALTERCATION BUT IT WAS CLOSER THAN I WANTED.IVE NOT BEEN PART OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT BUT I HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE THAT IT HAS BECOME A PROBLEM WITH OTHER UMPIRES.I AM ALL IN ON PASSING LEGISLATION PROTECTING OFFICIALS ON THE FIELD.



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Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB 118

Ed Saxton <edsax63@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 3:50 PM

Please support SB118. I am a high school Referee for 35 years and sometimes I am scared doing some games.

--
Edward Saxton

Parma, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

OHSAA Official Support

Dale West <handyoneman@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 9, 2019 at 11:53 AM

Asking to propose legislation that would make an assault on a sports official a felony just as it would be if a teacher, school administrator, bus driver or State worker were the victim of assault.

Dale G.

South Euclid



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB 118

Owen Brigner <brigner18@gmail.com>
To: mporpora35@gmail.com, andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 6:46 PM

Gentleman,

I am a class one basketball official from the 5th District Association which is in Northwest Ohio. I previously worked for State Representative Tony Burkley and I'm pretty familiar with Senator Rob McColley, who is on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I'd love to help out in any way that I can even though that now it's in the hands of the legislative process. Are you planning on having anyone as a witness at committee? I can't imagine there will be any trouble pushing this through.

If there's anything I can do, let me know. This is great legislation!

Best wishes,

Owen Brigner

Defiance, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Referee Retention

Ted Hamilton <tohhamilton@netscape.net>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 5:49 PM

Mr. Andy Milligan,

As a former referee, I believe legislation protecting referee's is a great idea. One of my last games I reffed was the deciding factor of me hanging up my shirt. During a game; I ended up verbally warning a kid, yellow carding another kid, throwing out a coach, threatened to throw out the remaining coach, threw out 3 parents, and threatened to throw out a whole section of parents. After the game was over, I immediately walked to my truck to leave. Along the journey I was told explicative's that I'm not going to repeat, and actually had a parent threaten physical harm to me. After stating to the parent "All I want to do is leave, I want no trouble from anyone, If you decide to physically come at me I will defend myself". Thankfully, nothing happened and I was able to leave. This was at a u10 boys game. All the kids, just wanted to play. The 2 boys understood why I gave the verbal, and yellow card. Their parents were verbally saying "push him, elbow him, etc...".

Another game, I watched a parent chastise a younger referee during and after a game. I walked over to provide back up to the younger referee as the parent was confronting him. Nothing more happened.

My teenage daughter use to ref younger kids during recreation games. She quit after 3 seasons because of parents behavior. And this was at a recreation level.

I have been told by others that they quit reffing for similar reasons. It's a shame that adults act this way. A referee shortage is the end result of it.

Ted Hamilton
Mapleton Girls Soccer Varsity Coach
1 Mountie Drive
Ashland, OH 44805
419.651.5420 cell



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Official's abuse

s k <scottkapple@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 4:46 PM

I am a basketball official in both Ohio and WV, (15 years) even tho i am in favor of this and want to support it but i personally think both the OHSAA and WVSSAC have missed the opportunity to handle this before it got this far. This can be handled at the school if game administration would take care of business, not sure about Ohio but WV has the announcer read a statement from either NFHS or from WVSSAC that basically says fans, coaches and players are to respect the officials, what a big waste of both time and breath. Why read something if you're not gonna enforce it? If they can't handle the position then someone else needs to fill the position. I have officiated several games where fans are way out of control and both the Principal and AD are there and do nothing. My daughter did volleyball last year and said she's done due to a fan issue and game administration did nothing. Why not start holding them accountable for happens in there gyms. Start showing fans the door on a consistant basis and this problem goes away. As officials when we have fans ejected 9 out 10 times people realize we're not messing around and they usually settle down. Just something to chew on.

Fleming, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Officials SB-118

Evan Thomas <evnhofacker95@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 10:27 AM

Good morning Andy,

This is Evan Hofacker, as I was reading the e-mail where it states in order to support SB-118 please reach out to your local senator and it states go to Senator-Directory. I tried clicking on that but there is no link, do I simply google Senator-Directory? Also, when I reach out do I forward them a copy of the e-mail that was sent to all officials about how we need their support for SB-118 then add in why I am supporting it and why we need their help in order to have the bill pass legislation? Thank you very much for your help and I hope to hear back from you soon.

Continued Success,
Evan Hofacker

Evan Hofacker (330) 803-4924 cell phone number

AKron, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB-118

Bill Barga <billbarga@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 12:18 PM

Hello,

I am a Basketball Official of 15 yrs. here in Ohio. This Senate Bill SB-118 is a great idea and needs to be initiated. I am in favor. Officiating has got progressively worse in trying to keep order in the last 5 yrs. As an official, we have no authority to remove someone without ramifications or threats. Only removed one person in 15 yrs., but have taken many personal threats, over the yrs. This is not the way it should be. We need some protection.

Bill Barga

Bill Barga
Ag Spectrum Sales Associate
(937) 623-7961
billbarga@gmail.com

Canal Winchester, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Proposed legislation: Sports Official Assault

Kelly Dine <kd62@ziips.uakron.edu>

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 12:50 PM

To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com, mporpora35@gmail.com

Hi Andy and Michael,

Thank you so much for researching and pursuing this matter, and for encouraging new legislation. We are all grateful to you! You have my 100% support.

I'm a 10 year softball and baseball official currently working college baseball, Prospect League baseball, OHSAA baseball, Little League, and summer tournaments. I just worked my first D1 assignment (Kent State baseball), and I'm also working the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, PA, this summer.

I have 3 sons who have all officiated baseball (and some softball) too.

My youngest, Aiden, is 14. He is in his 4th year of officiating local rec league baseball.

We live in Hudson, which is also the hometown of Sen. Kristina Roegner. For 6 years now, our 14 year old son has been a public speaker and advocate for all people who live with diabetes. At the age of 8, he personally testified in front of the Ohio House of Representatives as a proponent of HB 264, a Safe-at-School bill for students with diabetes. It was signed into law a year later.

Since that time, Aiden has continued to use his gifted speaking ability to advocate. He has been a primary speaker at a Capitol Hill press conference (with 2 Senators, 2 NFL players, and the CEO of the American Diabetes Association, among others), as well as numerous visits to speak with 20 different U.S. Congressmen (in DC) and Ohio Congressmen (in Columbus). He's also been interviewed for TV in multiple cities 5 different times. Sen. Roegner knows Aiden, as her staff met him during one of his Columbus trips, and she passed a city proclamation last year recognizing him for his advocacy efforts.

I also have significant experience with public speaking and have accompanied Aiden multiple times.

My point: should you need proponents to testify in support of SB 118, we would love to help out. Aiden would be a great representative for youth officials, and I could assist as a representative of female officials (especially since I work baseball). We're willing to travel to personally testify, and/or provide written testimony. We're also willing to help in other ways too.

I vividly remember a day about 5 years ago, where I was officiating a youth rec baseball game, along with 2 teenage umpires. We were verbally attacked during the game by 2 coaches from the same team. After ejecting first the assistant coach, then the head coach, and ultimately forfeiting the game, I was then approached and verbally attacked by a male parent. He came at me with his folding chair in one hand, his other hand in a fist, his face red with rage. I remember moving the 2 teenagers behind me, telling them to call 911 and run to the other dugout. I also remember thinking how glad I was that I was still wearing my chest protector, because I was 99% certain that I was going to get hit or punched by this man. Ultimately, I wasn't physically assaulted because some other parents intervened and police arrived so fast. But the verbal assault and the fear of that day will never be forgotten. I still have documentation of the incident.

With the recent rapid increase in verbal and physical assaults of officials nationwide and around the globe, my husband and I are seriously concerned about Aiden continuing to officiate. He absolutely loves it, but as parents, we are concerned for his safety, first and foremost. Thankfully, I can continue to work with him daily to teach him what to do, and my husband is able to attend Aiden's games to keep an eye on things.

Thank you again for your efforts, and please let us know how we can help.

Best regards,
Kelly Dine
330-592-3347

Hudson, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

FW: proposed bill to deal with abuse of officials in Ohio

John Guzik <mrjguz@gmail.com>
To: mporpora35@gmail.com, Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 4:36 PM

Gentlemen,

Thanks for taking the initiative on this and trying to do something about the state of fan abuse of officials these days.

Since you have taken the initiative on this and certainly have succeeded in getting the word out, I wanted to share my two cents with you on this subject because I do believe there is a path to address some of this that is already in place and hopefully would help stave some of the abuse off long before it gets to being physical.

That path is Ohio Revised Code 2903.22 on Menacing:
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2903.22>

This is something that any official who has been followed to the locker room (or the parking lot or whatever) can put into use RIGHT now and it's what should have been done against Mike McCarthy in that highly publicized case from last month. This code is already on the books and would certainly apply to any out-of-control parent/fan for something as simple as physically approaching an official let alone if someone made an overt threat.

I believe if we get a couple of charges like this that get some publicity and a district attorney that will follow through that it will be the start of a trend toward at least a little more civility in the sporting world and definitely diffuse situations well before that would warrant ANY type of assault charge (or injury).

Avon Lake, OH

Thanks again for taking the time to get involved.

John Guzik

(440) 666-4892

mrjguz@gmail.com

From: pac.comm@yahoo.com [mailto:pac.comm@yahoo.com] **On Behalf Of** ArbiterSports
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2019 8:09 AM
To: mrjguz@gmail.com
Subject: proposed bill to deal with abuse of officials in Ohio

I just received this email. Please read it over. It affects all officials in Ohio.

We are reaching out to you to ask for your support and help on what we believe is an important piece of legislation that will help protect all officials/referees across the State of Ohio at any level. We have a problem in Ohio with referee retention or just a plain lack of officials/referees. A recent survey by the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) indicates that nearly 80% of new sports officials will quit within two years mostly due to the poor treatment that they receive on the field. Within that poor treatment also comes referee assault. The NASO survey also states that 57% of sports officials believe that referee abuse has gotten worse in recent years. In fact, referee abuse is so common that there is now a Facebook page (Offside) dedicated to posting videos of poor behavior at youth sporting events. It is not too difficult to find news reports or social media posts showing spectators abusing/stalking sports officials as they exit the court or field.

In doing research into the soccer referee shortage in the Akron area we found that there were no specific laws that covered "referee assault" in Ohio. We decided to try and create a safer "workplace" for sports officials, we have recently met with Ohio State Senator, Kristina Roegner and Ohio House Representative Bill Roemer. We have asked them to propose legislation that would make an assault on a sports official a felony just as it would be if a teacher, school administrator, bus driver or State worker were the victim of assault. The Ohio High School Athletic Association already states that any scholastic sports event is to be considered an extension of the classroom and as such, the penalties for assault should apply to those who target sports officials as well.

Although we have found great support from Senator Roegner and Representative Roemer, we need your help to gain additional momentum for this newly proposed legislation. Senator Roegner has introduced SB-118 **Increased Penalty for Assault if the Victim is a Sports Official**. Representative Roemer's legislation has been drafted and he is now identifying co-sponsors and he intends to file his Bill on April 12th. We are asking that you disseminate this information to your local membership and ask that they please support this worthwhile cause. We need to have as many officials/referees call or e-mail their local Senator and ask them to support SB-118. A list of Senators and the districts that they represent can be found at: Senate-Directory. All phone calls and emails should be made/sent by close of business on April 23.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please email or call us



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Casey Weinstein

matthds@aol.com <matthds@aol.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 11:18 AM

Just emailed him, Ohio House of Reps.

All the best,
Dusty



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB-118 Increased Penalty for Assault if the Victim is a Sports Official

William Zapf <wzapf@oh.rr.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 10:58 AM

Dear Mr. Milligan,

As a sports official for 24 years, I ask you to consider supporting SB-118 Increased Penalty for Assault if the Victim is a Sports Official. New officials, especially youth officials, are especially vulnerable, and all officials need additional protection from participants in youth sports who misbehave.

Thanks for your consideration and support,

William Zapf

Bay Village, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Umpire abuse

Vincent Rudolph <vincentrudolph750@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 8:51 AM

I have been an OHSAA umpire for 16 years. Yes, fan abuse has become worse yearly and I will support you 100%

Cleveland, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

referee support

Cain, William E III CIV DLA LAND AND MARITIME (US)
<William.Cain2@dla.mil>
To: "Andymilligan2@gmail.com" <Andymilligan2@gmail.com>
Cc: "mporpora35@gmail.com" <mporpora35@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 8:40
AM

Attn: Government,

I am writing in support of officials so hopefully the penalty of abusing officials will be increased in the future.

Thank you,

Bill Cain III referee

Worthington, all



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Assaults on officials

Dave Duarte <vasculisgod@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 9:24 AM

It's about time in highschool, but what about summer time baseball, fast-pitch, slow-pitch? That is where the majority of the problems happen. Some leagues play under OHSAA rules so will an umpire be covered under that league? What about other leagues where OHSAA rules are not used? I feel that as an umpire we would want this to cover highschool and summer and fall baseball, fast-pitch, and slow-pitch. Most times highschool ball doesn't have many problem like summer and fall ball does. I feel that highschool ball is held with a higher standard as far as expectations from coaches, players, and parents. Summer and fall it can seem as though the same standards of highschool expectations are no longer in place and that leads to the abuse of officials. I thank you for your time. Hope some this will help.

David Duarte
davidaduarte065@gmail.com
440-241-5912

N. Royalton, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB 118

DJ Hynes <djhynes5@yahoo.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 7, 2019 at 11:50 PM

Please support SB-118 Increased Penalty for Assault if the Victim is a Sports Official.

It is greatly needed to protect our sports officials.

-Dallas Hynes

Sent from my iPhone

St. Clairsville, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB118

FRANK MICALE <fjmicale@aol.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com

Sun, Apr 7, 2019 at 9:52 PM

Andy,

First off did you go to Lake HS and maybe graduated in 1986-89 around there? Played soccer for Lake too? If yes I remember you. If not I have the wrong person.

Secondly I am a basketball referee and going into my 29th year of refereeing high school and college basketball. I'm all for supporting this bill in any way. I was once assaulted at Ellet about 20 yrs ago when a coach spit in my face. Things are getting worse and my boys have asked to get into officiating and often I wonder if I should let them.

Anyway I hope I can help here in some way.

Hope to hear back from you.

Frank Micale
3302835932
OHSAA Permit: 141957
Pardon any typos - Sent from my iPhone XS MAX

Akron, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Law protecting officials

3 messages

Louis Skoletsky <liskoletsky@roadrunner.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 30, 2019 at 2:55 PM

Andy,

I have been an official for over 40 years at the high school and college level. I want to thank you for advocating and promoting the proposed Ohio Law that will hopefully have a positive impact in not just high school sports but all sports.

I, too, am concerned about the shortage of officials and the inability to retain young ones. I liken officiating to my time as a Boy Scout—it can build character and teach invaluable lessons in lifetime skills.

As a fellow official, I thank you again. I am also a fellow Copley resident.

Best regards,

Lou Skoletsky

OHSAA #124441

PS-my colleague, Brian Miller, is also a soccer official.

Sent from my iPhone

Copley, OH

Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>
To: Louis Skoletsky <liskoletsky@roadrunner.com>

Tue, Apr 30, 2019 at 8:53 PM

Hi Lou,

Thank you for your email and your support. I have received over 100 responses similar to yours over that past 2 months since we began this process. Unfortunately, many of those responses detail abuse and assault that fellow sports officials have endured including a 16 year old girl who umpired a U12 softball game and was cornered in the dugout by 2 male coaches to the point where she feared for her life.

Although this law addresses physical assault, we are working to bring awareness to the fact that abuse starts at the youth level and this is why we lose 70% - 80% of our new officials within 2-3 years of them getting their officiating license.

As for life lessons, I couldn't agree more. My daughter began refereeing at age 12 and has become a strong and independent young lady as a result.

Lastly, I need your help! In the next few weeks I will be going down to the Statehouse in Columbus to testify in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee on the purpose behind this bill. It would be helpful if you sent an email to your Ohio House Representative and Senator. You can find out who those people are by clicking on this link and enter your address. Please forward to me any responses that you receive.

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>

Again, thank you for your support and all you have done for officiating.

Andy Milligan
Cell/text 330-760-4771

[Quoted text hidden]

Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 22, 2019 at 9:42 PM



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

ACTION REQUIRED Assault Law Update

Allyn Schnellinger <aschnellinger@msn.com>
To: "andymilligan2@gmail.com" <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 8:10 AM

Dear Mr. Milligan,

I believe that this is a worthwhile venture on your part. I have been refereeing for 20+ years and can tell you that I have never had an incident that I considered an "assault". I have been stopped on my way off the court and needed an escort from a football field to my locker room. But I am about 6'2 and 240 lbs, so most people don't get past the "shouting stage" with me. However, fan behavior is getting worse every year. Athletic Directors, in particular, are now "scared to do their jobs". Fans will scream/mis-behave at games and AD's will just sit there and let it happen. Especially if it is one of their own fans. They don't want to deal with the "backlash" of dealing with "one of their own". I have had Athletic Directors tell me "just throw them out". In my opinion, that is not my job. It is their job to provide a safe and positive environment for all spectators. But if AD's are not going to eject fans and "police the crowds" then it is inevitable that we will have assaults on officials. Absolutely inevitable. I fully support your efforts in this venture. Thanks and enjoy your day!

Allyn R. Schnellinger
Permit 161782
419-706-1260

Norwalk, OH

From: BAOA@yahoogroups.com <BAOA@yahoogroups.com> on behalf of Greg Bartemes SEMETRAB@hotmail.com [BAOA] <BAOA-noreply@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 7:41 AM
To: BAOA Officials
Subject: [BAOA] Fw: ACTION REQUIRED Assault Law Update

As you can read below there is a push in Ohio to add an assault law against sports officials. So as a result they are asking officials who have been victims of assault while officiating to give testimony and help with the passing of HB 208. If you can add to the cause please contact Andy Milligan, his contact information is in the email below.

Thanks,
Greg Bartemes
419-366-2532

From: Michael Porpora <mporpora@neo.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 10:03 AM
To: mmilush@aol.com; bjwoods1977@aol.com; mckinkn@peoplepc.com; ftheyer12@gmail.com; ellpres@sbcglobal.net; muellauer@sbcglobal.net; allan_k2000@yahoo.com;



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Lawsuit

connegeorge313 <connegeorge313@gmail.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 8:23 PM

Any Official who Ever had hands placed on them needs to be on here, thx God that I have Never been hurt because of a Basketball or football games
(Most likely because I'm 6ft 3inn 280lb , and worked in Corrections for a lifetime, I am zero Tolerance on foolishness I will not ever be disrespected or how anyone placed a has on me
But I have heard of a few whom were jumped or even punched in the face

I George Conne 203195
Support All of my Official Brothers and Sisters
Thx you George Conne

Austintown, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

HB 2018 and SB 118

rxsgolf@yahoo.com <rxsgolf@yahoo.com>
To: andymilligan2@gmail.com

Sat, Aug 31, 2019 at 7:51 AM

Andy,

Thanks for taking on this initiative. I have emailed both of my legislators about the importance of their taking the initiative to drive this legislation.

This is important to me because I have been involved in my city's local youth program, The Bay Soccer Club for 22 years. My role today is the Director of Referees. In this role I have the privilege of mentoring 93 youth referees from ages 12 to 18. The biggest reason the Bay Soccer Club has lost referees is due to adult mis-behavior. My mission has been to tame that behavior and allow our kids to learn to ref without being run out of the sport by adults.

I sent both of my legislators a link to a video my 17-year old daughter, Annie made on this very subject for the parents in our town to put the issue in perspective. You can view the link by clicking on it and feel free to share it as the parents of the kids have signed consent waivers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Af4DkP8BhU>

Mike's email was not included in the handout at the GCSOA meeting last Sunday so I have not copied him but please forward it to him as well as the issue is very important to me.

Good luck and thank you for driving this. I just wish it was more severe for the adults who direct their behavior toward our kids.

Rob Spies

216-798-2318

Bay Village, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

SB 118

Michael P. McSorley <mpmcsorleysr@gmail.com>
To: Andymilligan2@gmail.com, mporpora35@gmail.com

Sun, Sep 1, 2019 at 1:27 PM

Men,

I have to ask after the events in Dayton last night. What is the status of SB 118?

Michael McSorley
Football and Wrestling Official
513-464-7252

Sent from my iPhone

Monroe, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sports officials assault legislation

Edwin Yarbrough <eylaxbball@gmail.com>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>
Cc: jranally@oh.rr.com, w_ungar@att.net, wklepac@aol.com

Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 11:09 PM

Hi Andy
We will do all we can to help support this legislation.
[Quoted text hidden]

Cleveland, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Dayton Area Football Officials Association

ryan walters <walters-ryan@sbcglobal.net>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 1, 2019 at 3:59 PM

Hello Andy,

Thank you for the email. I have a few Republican friends who I have reached out to as well. I am past tired of this not being completed already and would love to be a part of this getting passed

I am currently on a cruise and will not be home until at least Wednesday. Waiting for the hurricane to pass so we can return to port.

I will reach out again once we are back in town. Thank you for reaching out. Looking forward to speaking with you.

Ryan

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

W. Carrollton, OH



Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Football referee assault at Dayton high school football game 8/31/19

Kevin Forrer <forrerassigning@gmail.com>
To: Andy Milligan <andymilligan2@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 4, 2019 at 6:01 PM

Andy,

I have shared this with my group.

Unfortunately I cannot put an attachment on the arbiter email.

I have asked the officials to reach out to you.

Heard you on WLW today. Nice job!

Kevin L. Forrer

173 Countryside Drive North

Troy, Ohio 45373

937-475-9130



Umpire altercation prompts officiating group to stop scheduling with organization

Published: Tuesday, May 07, 2019 @ 12:03 PM

By: Breaking News Staff (/online/contacts/breaking-news-staff/lq38jnQ4FHoEVbcxhtwh6N/)

Umpire scheduler will no longer assign games to recreational program due to ~~the~~ spectator conduct.

The organization responsible for scheduling will no longer provide umpires to the Possum Recreation Program after an umpire was allegedly shoved to the ground by an adult youth baseball official.

SPRINGFIELD TWP., CLARK COUNTY —

>>WATCH live updates NOW on 7 (https://www.whio.com/whio-tv/?type=watch_live_button&source=desktop_watch_live_header_button&level=story)

Content Continues Below



The organization responsible for scheduling will no longer provide umpires to the Possum Recreation Program after an umpire was allegedly shoved to the ground by an adult youth baseball official.

PREVIOUS REPORT: Sheriff's office investigating reported altercation involving umpire, baseball official (<https://www.whio.com/news/local/sheriff-investigating-reported-altercation-involving-umpire-baseball-official/MITqjhZyQrYV7I3UKoYwmK/>)

In an email addressed to the Possum Recreation Program, the West Central Ohio Umpire Assignors said they will no longer provide umpires, effective Tuesday, following the incident involving a 17-year-old umpire and an adult league official.

"(The adult baseball official's) decision to approach the umpire about a non-umpire related issue that ended in assaulting / pushing the umpire to the ground has left us no option but to discontinue services to the Possum Recreation Program," Jim Heatherly, Baseball and Softball Assignor for the WCOUA said in the email.

"I cannot ask an umpire to put himself/herself in harms way with the administration or fans of your program." "West Central Ohio Assignors has the expectation that our umpires will be protected from fans and supported by program administration."

Deputies were dispatched to the baseball field at Possum Elementary School, on West Possum Road, just before 9 p.m. Monday on reports an umpire was assaulted by an adult. The umpire reportedly hit his head in the fall, according to the dispatch from the sheriff's office.

The umpire told investigators he was ok and did not require medical attention at an area hospital.

The adult youth baseball official declined to comment on the incident Monday night. This news outlet is working to obtain comments and reaction from the Possum Recreation Program about the incident.

It was not known if any charges have been filed yet.

We'll continue to update this story as new details become available.

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Bright white dot in sky in Dayton area raises questions

(https://www.whio.com/news/local/bright-white-dot-sky-raises-questions/DlyLXb9uzsVojcRMcdaZmO/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=feed-trending) (https://www.whio.com/news/local/bright-white-dot-sky-raises-questions/DlyLXb9uzsVojcRMcdaZmO/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=feed-trending)

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

Strongsville, OH

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.