

Approved: February 3, 2000  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on January 24, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Phill Kline - excused
- Representative Kathe Lloyd - excused

Committee staff present:

- Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department
- Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
- Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Sheriff Loren Anderson, Douglas County Sheriff, Kansas Sheriff's Association
- Representative Becky Hutchins
- Mike Hayes, State Association of Sports Officials
- John Deedrick, Kansas Association of Sports Official

Hearing on **HB 2557 - Aggravated battery against a law enforcement officer; use of a motor vehicle**, were opened.

Sheriff Loren Anderson, Douglas County Sheriff, Kansas Sheriff's Association, appeared before the committee in support of the bill. He commented that the proposed bill would simply put motor vehicles in the same status as a weapon because drivers can cause harm to officers and the public by speeding away from the police. (Attachment 1)

Hearing on **HB 2557** was closed.

Hearing on **HB 2274 - Crimes & punishment, battery against a sports official**, were opened.

Representative Becky Hutchins appeared as the sponsor of the bill. She informed the committee that there has been an increase in incidents of harm against sports officials. Since 1987 there has been 12 states that have passed similar legislation. All officials are conditioned to take verbal abuse but physical abuse crosses the line. The proposed bill would simply increase the amount of the fine, not the amount of time the perpetrator serves. (Attachment 2)

Mike Hayes, State Association of Sports Officials, informed the members that they have the most trouble with college sports, not necessarily the students. Usually there is some bumping or fist thrown and those are ejected from the game. The concern is when there is more physical harm on the official. (Attachment 3)

John Deedrick, Kansas Association of Sports Official, stated that it's a scary feeling when a group of spectators jump on an official or take bats to them. He stated that there needs to be stiffer penalties when it comes to battery of official.

Numerous individuals provided written testimony. (see Attachments 4 - 11)

Hearing on **HB 2274** was closed.

### **HB 2600 - exclusions to jury service**

Representative Carmody made the motion to report HB 2600 favorably for passage. Representative Lightner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

**HB 2372 - retirement system for justices and judges**

Representative Carmody made the motion to amend HB 2372 by making it effective upon publication in the Kansas Register and report favorably for passage. Representative Flaharty seconded the motion.

Representative Klein requested that the committee hold off working the bill due to concerns from some of the committee members. He was asked what the concerns were and Representative Powell explained that there is a judge in Sedgwick County who many believed shouldn't be allowed to retain his seat or run again. He suggested that if there is an effective date he would rather it be later, than sooner.

Representative Powell made a substitute amendment to delay the effective date until January 1, 2001. Representative Long seconded the motion. Representative Klein was concerned that the substitute amendment would effect someone on the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. Representative Flaharty stated that this is not the proper way to take care of this judge but that the retirement age should be fair and effect everyone equally. The motion failed.

Representative Carmody renewed his motion. Representative Swenson made a substitute motion to table the bill. He believes that it would be bad public policy. Representative Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2000.

Testimony of Loren C. Anderson  
Chairman, Kansas Sheriff's Association Legislative Committee

Included in the current definition of aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer in K.S.A. 21-3414 and K.S.A. 21-3415 are clauses regarding the use of a deadly weapon to cause bodily harm, disfigurement, or death.

It is time that we recognize, through passage of this bill, that a motor vehicle can be used in such a manner.

Law enforcement officers are all too familiar with situations where vehicles have been used to harm an officer. Just within the last month, a Lawrence Police Officer had done a car stop. During the course of that contact, it was discovered that the driver had a warrant for his arrest. The driver fled by striking the officer with the car and leaving the scene. The driver was then involved in a chase with other officers in the county and was later apprehended. Luckily, the officer who was hit was not seriously injured in this case.

Whether striking the officer while he or she is on a motorcycle, bicycle, on foot, or ramming the officer's department vehicle, the officer is always placed at high risk of injury or death. Even the use of part of the vehicle, such as ramming a car door into an officer, can have devastating results.

Technology has increased the frequency that offenders are identified after an unsuspecting car stop. Penalties are still the best deterrent of this type of offense.

To enhance officer safety, I urge you to support House Bill 2557.



Loren C. Anderson, Chairman  
Kansas Sheriff's Association Legislative Committee

BECKY HUTCHINS  
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
VICE CHAIR: TOURISM  
MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT  
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

Testimony before the  
House Judiciary Committee

Regarding

House Bill 2274

January 24, 2000

Chairman O'Neal and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today in support of House Bill 2274.

Last session I came before you requesting introduction of this bill. House Bill 2274 would establish the category of crime of battery against a sports official. Battery against a sports official would be a Class B, person misdemeanor, and upon conviction of the violation, a person would be fined not less than \$500, nor more than \$2,000.

Unfortunately, today our athletic events are being bombarded by incidents involving bad behavior, much of it occurring in full view of our young people who participate in organized sports. I feel we must address this issue in order to send a strong message that such behavior will not be tolerated. We need to do this for two reasons.

1. Those who give their time and energy to officiate games not only deserve our collective respect, they must have complete confidence they will be able to carry out their responsibilities in a safe environment.
2. As a society, we need to act on the belief that respect for authority is critical to living, working and playing together.

Since 1987, the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), a 19,000-member organization, has spearheaded efforts for legislation which would increase penalties against those who intentionally cause bodily harm or intentionally cause physical contact in a rude, insulting or angry manner against a sports official.

Twelve states (Arkansas, California, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) have passed legislation that supports NASO's objective. It is my hope that Kansas will pass similar legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today, and I'd be happy to stand for questions.

*Becky Hutchins*

Becky Hutchins  
Representative Fiftieth District

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL C. HAYES  
311 JEFFERSON  
P.O. Box 367  
OSKALOOSA, KANSAS 66066  
785-863-2772

My name is Michael Hayes and I live in Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas. I am here in support of House Bill No. 2274. I am an attorney and have been a football and basketball official for thirty years. I have officiated grade school, junior high, high school, jr. college, NAIA conferences in Kansas and NCAA Division II. Over the course of thirty years I have seen changes in coaches, students, student athletes, parents and fans behavior. The schools have the leadership to control their students and student athlete's behavior. Bruce Finlayson former BIG 8 Supervisor stated that "Football is an imperfect game, played by imperfect players, coached by imperfect coaches, and officiated by imperfect officials. Officiating is as much a part of the game as blocking, running and tackling: and therefore the only thing that really matters is that the officials are men of integrity." The number of officials continues to decrease because of the emphasis on winning and losing even at the early ages in our youth programs and the amount of money that is being spent to have a winning team. The passage is important to curtail the aggressive and physical behavior of fans of all ages. Recently we have seen the influx of female officials and fan behavior can have an influence on the retention of these new officials. Therefore the attitudes of people have changed and this bill is needed to protect the people who are interested in our young people and are officiating to stay connected with athletics and want to continue to be involved with the young people today. Perhaps this will enable our young people to continue to further their officiating career so that there will continue to be people to replace officials like me who are getting older. When it comes time for me to retire I would like to know that there will be younger officials who have developed and are ready able and capable people to continue to be connected with our young people of today so that sports can continue. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this bill.



# CITY OF TOPEKA

Department of Parks & Recreation  
215 E Seventh Street Room 259  
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January 21, 2000

State Representative Becky Hutchins  
Kansas House of Representatives

Ms. Hutchins,

As supervisor of Athletics and Aquatics with Parks and Recreation of Topeka I want you to express my support of House Bill #2274 which you are sponsoring. Assault on Sports Officials must be taken seriously by everyone involved in providing Sports activities.

It is only a matter of time before an incident occurs in our community unless we begin to act now. Thank you for your commitment in creating a violence free environment in our state. House Bill #2274 will make acts of assault a crime of battery against sports officials.

It is only a matter of time before recent acts of aggression and violence, which have occurred in our school systems, reach out to sports programs. I like to make the following comparison; Police officers used to get respect from people by wearing the uniform, unfortunately today police officers MUST gain respect from the people. Respect is not given for wearing the uniform. The same holds true when officiating sports today. People do not give respect to the uniform respect MUST be earned by how you handle the situations which occur. The pressure put on individuals to become sports officials is tremendous. We must create an attitude of NON-VIOLENCE in sports and House Bill #2274 is our first step.

In sports officiating coaches, players and fans respect those who make the right call. Thank you Representative Hutchins for making the right call on behalf of all sports officials. If you need additional information please feel free to call me at 368-3808 or my home 267-6603.

Bruce Andrews, C.L.P.  
Supervisor Athletics and Aquatics, Parks and Recreation of Topeka

House Judiciary  
1-24-2000  
Attachment 4

January 24, 2000

My name is Dave Freeman and I am a sports official. I have been a softball umpire for 16 years. I umpire slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball.

I am also an umpire assigner for Shawnee County Parks and Recreation. Although I have had a few minor confrontations with players, coaches and fans, I have been able to handle most of the problems myself.

As an umpire assigner, I have had to deal with some of my umpires being threatened on several occasions with bodily harm and some of them were so upset that they quit umpiring.

I think in this day and age we need a state law to offset any and hopefully all violence in all phases of sports.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Freeman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS OFFICIALS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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January 20, 2000

The Honorable Michael R. O'Neal  
Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Kansas House of Representatives  
Statehouse  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Sent by facsimile

Dear Representative O'Neal and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I regret that I am unable to appear before you in person, but I hope you will read into the record, this testimony offered in support of House Bill 2274.

Sadly, there has been a disturbing increase in the number of reported assaults and lawsuits against the men and women who officiate our games today. Many of these people either volunteer their time or officiate for minimal pay. In most cases, attacks occur from overzealous fans, players or coaches who have lost perspective of what the games are about and have emotionally decided to "take matters into their own hands." Often times, no security exists and the official is placed in a dangerous situation because they must maintain a calm and demeanor that protects the integrity of the sport, the organization that utilizes their services and the profession itself.

Vulnerable may be an understatement.

For example, in Oklahoma, a 34-year-old adult attacked and choked a teenage baseball umpire at a tee-ball game, because the adult didn't agree with a call at first base. Imagine the shock on the 5-and 6-year-old participant's faces? Imagine the life-long lasting impression left for these youngsters as they watched in horror.

Last year in Alabama, following a closely fought high school playoff game, the game announcer over the stadium address system said, "these officials should go back to school." This comment led to a mob of more than 100 students and adults from the losing school charging onto the field as the officials were leaving. One official was physically assaulted.

In the state of Washington, a high school wrestling official was headbutted by a contestant after the official gave a point deduction to the participant for unsportsmanlike conduct. The official was unconscious for more than three minutes.

While watching local and national news events, you may have seen in recent years the attacks on professional officials by the NFL's Orlando Brown, the NBA's Dennis Rodman or Major League Baseball's Roberto Alomar. Those are incidents that receive high exposure because they are events captured on video and involve highly paid athletes. What you don't see are the abuses occurring at the youth leagues around the country on an all to frequent basis. Those events rarely make the news.

Representative Michael R. O'Neal  
January 20, 2000  
Page Two

Youth sports and many high school events provide no security measures at all. It is at these types of events where officials are most vulnerable. It is at these events where emotions can become so intense that physical attacks include bats, chairs, tire irons and even guns.

Many officials now wonder if it is worth it. We believe the answer is still "yes" because sports need the impartiality of the official. Our community youth programs and high schools need officials to ensure that events are conducted safely and fair.

If the behavior of those who cross the line goes unpunished, then the number of officials working such events will continue to decline.

Sports officials are conditioned to take the verbal abuse. Most officials will "tune out" the aggressively verbal fan. In all cases, such behavior by players and coaches can be handled through the rules of the game. However, physical abuse crosses the line. When someone charges an official with intent to cause bodily harm, then prosecution must be recourse. Otherwise, you are declaring open season on all sports officials.

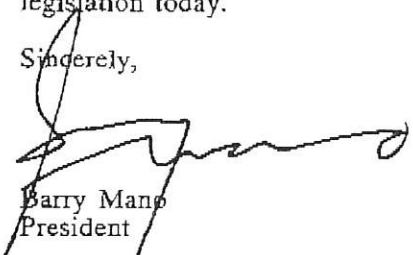
There are no party lines to cross when addressing a common sense issue such as this. There is no fiscal impact with this law, but there is moral impact. This legislation supports the most basic moral code we try to instill in our children and society — respect authority.

I urge you to join the 13 other states that have already enacted similar legislation. Leaders in Arkansas, California, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Oregon, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and West Virginia have demonstrated courage, good judgment and vision to make the right call.

Before the end of this year, we anticipate several more states enacting legislation. Among those that we understand plan or have submitted bills for consideration this year: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask that you make the right call now and support this legislation today.

Sincerely,



Barry Manó  
President

BM/rds

House Judiciary  
1-24-2000  
Attachment 7

## Memorandum

Date: 1/24/2000

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Tom Bruno

**RE:** Testimony Supporting H.B. 2274

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Tom Bruno with Jim Allen Associates. I am here representing myself as a sports official. I currently officiate football at the small college and high school level. I also work high school basketball.

The growing trend of sports related violence in this country is astonishing. Fans and parents attack officials because they feel the official cost their team the game. Players lash out at officials for doing what they love to do. This blaming of officials is not a new thing, but it has in recent years become more violent.

This kind of conduct is not just at the high school or college level. It happens in *Non-Competitive* youth games. The need for some type of penalty to be applied for this kind of attack on officials is needed.

Some fans feel they have the right to attack the referee, if, in their opinion, the referee cost their child the game. I am not saying that fans should not yell at officials. We as officials expect to get yelled at. We do not expect, nor should we have to fear from physical attacks caused due to a disagreement about a call or a rule interpretation.

I have included some recent articles from *Referee Magazine* for your review. In closing, I would like to urge your support and passage of H.B. 2274.

## ***When it all breaks loose***

Assaults against sports officials are drawing unprecedented attention. Many states have passed legislation designed specifically to protect sports officials. More and more assaults are given media attention. It's an unfortunate reality that officials must be aware of.

When a situation involving brawling fans and/or players escalates to the point where the game officials and the game administrator can't control it, have the game administrator call the police to restore order. In most higher level games (high school varsity and above) in high-profile sports (basketball and football, for example), uniformed police officers are already assigned to the game site. Know where the police are located so you can find them if you need them.

Get the police involved if you or your partner have been assaulted. File appropriate police reports and follow through with charges as appropriate. One way to help deter violence against officials is to stand up and fight it the proper way — in the judicial system. You do a disservice to the avocation if you're involved in a physical altercation and decide to look the other way to avoid trouble.

**What to do if you're attacked.** If in connection with your officiating you are physically attacked, there are certain things you should and should not do. In an interview with *Referee*, Mel Narol, an attorney who is an authority on legal issues involving officials and is a *Referee* "Law" columnist, gave advice on the proper procedures.

**1. Don't strike back to attack the player, coach or fan who assaulted you.** If your attacker is injured due to your retaliation, you

could be subject to criminal liability and/or a reduction of a potential monetary award. By fighting back physically, you may be placing yourself in a no-win situation.

**2. As soon as possible, obtain the names, addresses and phone numbers of witnesses.** The information they supply may be critical to you and your attorney.

**3. Immediately write down a complete version of what occurred and how you were injured.** Be sure to include the names, addresses and phone numbers of your attacker(s), appropriate coaches/managers, your fellow official(s) and the scorers and timers.

**4. Determine if a videotape of the game and incident have been made; if so, obtain a copy of that tape.** Visual evidence can be of great value to you and your attorney.

**5. Don't discuss the incident with anyone; simply gather information.** Many times what you say is misunderstood or misinterpreted, which may return to haunt you during litigation.

**6. Obtain competent legal counsel.** Discuss whether you have a civil or criminal complaint to make against your attacker(s). If you are assaulted during or after a game you've worked, you have the right to pursue both civil and criminal actions. Those options should be discussed with legal counsel.

**Review the incident.** Following any game in which you had an ejection or other unsportsmanlike conduct incident to deal with, ask yourself these important questions:

1. Did I do anything to lead to the ejection?

2. Did I challenge the player or coach?

3. Did I lose self control?

4. Did my body language show I was the aggressor?

5. Did I let the coach or player have a chance to get his or her emotions in check?

6. Would I do anything differently the next time something similar occurs?

Take a hard look at yourself to see if there's anything you could have done better. Ask your partners for their views or review the incident with respected veterans to gain further insight. Some bad situations can't be prevented or avoided, but many can.

**The next game.** After your self-analysis of the difficult situation, your next challenge is getting mentally ready for your next game. You've got to learn from the incident, but you've also got to clear your head to officiate the next game. It's unfair to the game and its participants for you to carry over bad feelings from one game into your next.

Be sure that you deal with the new challenges as you did before you had a negative incident. If you have a shorter fuse in your next game, you're not mentally ready to officiate.

The biggest challenge is when you see the offender the next time, for example if you've ejected a coach and then work a game involving that coach a month later. You'll find that many times the incident is forgotten by the coach; you need to forget it too. Sometimes, however, the bad feelings have festered in the offender for some time. Deal with it professionally at all times. ☺

# Ump's Tires Slashed; Coach Loses Job

NEW YORK — A tire-slashing incident may have led to the firing of a high school coach.

Baseball coach Pete White, a former umpire, was stripped of his coaching position at John Adams High School in Queens by principal Jerry Beirne. The suspension came as the result of an April 27 incident in which an umpire's car tires were found slashed after a game against Franklin K. Lane High School.

According to Stu Hershkowitz, president of the Parade Ground Umpires Association, White began an argument with the two umpires working the game. Hershkowitz said he received written statements from the two umpires but he declined to identify them.

"The argument started over the mercy rule," said Hershkowitz. "Adams went ahead by 10 runs in the top of the seventh, and their coach felt that was the end of the game. But the umpires correctly said that the home team must have a chance to bat."

White reportedly disagreed and began arguing with the umpires who eventually ejected him.

White left the field and the game ended after the seventh inning. When the umpires returned to their cars, the plate umpire found two of his tires slashed.

The base umpire reportedly went to

his car to call a tow truck and saw White sitting in his car parked next to him. White, after being informed of the damage, reportedly told the umpire, "Maybe if he were nicer to me, that

wouldn't have happened."

According to Hershkowitz, no other cars in the area were vandalized and

*See Tires slashed p.16*

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## Tires slashed

*(continued from p. 15)*

the plate umpire did not file a police report.

Hershkowitz estimated he has received 40-50 calls of complaint

about White. "And that's a conservative number," he said. "This incident was just the cherry on top of the sundae for him. He is a former official and maybe he feels he can take more liberties with current officials. This behavior is reprehensible from someone in his position."

Assistant coach Glenn Beyer took over the coaching duties. "Pete White did not (slash the tires)," said Beyer. "Whoever implied that is completely wrong." Two Franklin K. Lane players were also ejected earlier in the game.

Beirne suspended White, who coached for seven seasons, May 3 and formally fired him May 10. White retains his position as a physical education teacher at the school.

Contributing source: *New York Newsday* ↩

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## 'If My Kid Loses, I'm Going After an Official'

TROUP, Ga. — After announcing to fellow spectators, "If my kid loses, I'm going after an official," a 46-year-old man made good on his threat and slugged a high school wrestling referee. As a result, Tim McClendon of Troup, Ga., faces four misdemeanor accounts. The assaulted official, Allan Meachem of Columbus, spent one night in a hospital as a result of the attack.

"I've been an official 26 years and I've never seen anything like it in my life," said Mark Massey, president of the Columbus Wrestling Officials Association and an eyewitness. "It could just as easily have been me instead of Allan."

The incident occurred Feb. 6, during the Area 2 Class AAA team tournament. According to Massey, Troup High School won the first two bouts in the meet before visiting Columbus won the next six. The ninth match pitted Troup's Ryan McClendon against Mike Wooden. Tim

McClendon, Ryan's father, charged the mat after Wooden pinned the younger McClendon.

"The only lights in the gym were a spotlight on the mat," Massey explained. "(McClendon) sneaked down behind the scorer's table and brushed right by me on his way to the mat."

Tim McClendon and his son, Rusty, charged the mat and Tim allegedly slugged Meachem in the face. Meachem was unconscious for 10 minutes, Massey said, and suffered a

concussion. Spectators who tried to calm the McClendons were also punched.

The McClendons turned themselves in to police two days after the incident. Tim was charged with two counts of battery and single counts of simple battery, riot and disruption of a public school. Rusty, 20, was charged with two counts of simple battery, riot and disruption of a public school.

The meet was suspended after the attack and resumed Feb. 8. Meachem did not officiate those bouts.

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September 1999 REFEREE 15





# Prep Player Charged With Felony

BRIGHTON, Mass. — A high school hockey player faces felony assault charges and was given a one-year suspension after allegedly attacking an on-ice official.

The incident occurred March 26 at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena immediately after a match between Canton High School and Somerville High School to crown the Division 2 South hockey champion.

The fight broke out immediately following Canton's 4-0 victory when two opposing players tried to untangle themselves from each other as time expired. The Canton player raised his arms in victory and was

cross-checked from behind. Both benches emptied.

As the incident unfolded, several fights broke out on the ice and the officials were outnumbered. At one point, referee Brian Sullivan and Somerville senior Joe Vicente became entangled directly in front of the Canton bench when Vicente attempted to get at a Canton player.

Vicente allegedly head-butted the referee with his helmet and landed several punches to Sullivan's face. Sullivan, a Massachusetts state police officer from Needham, Mass., suffered a bloodied lip and a cut finger that required stitches.

Sullivan could not be

See Felony p. 17



High school hockey player Joe Vicente allegedly punched referee Brian Sullivan.

JEFF LOUGHLIN/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

## Felony

(continued from p. 13)

reached for comment, but Canton coach Buddy Yandle was quoted in the *Boston Globe*, "(Sullivan) got attacked. (Vicente) jumped on top of (Sullivan) and tried to beat the living daylights out of him."

Five players from each school were handed game misconducts, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association suspended Vicente for one year.

Vicente was further charged with assault and battery, a misdemeanor, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (his helmet), a felony.

At his arraignment May 7, Vicente pleaded not guilty and the case was held over for a June 22 pre-trial conference. If convicted, Vicente faces a maximum of two and a half years in jail and a \$500 fine for the misdemeanor and a maximum of 10 years in jail and a \$1,000 fine for the felony.

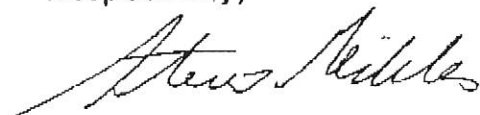
**Valley Center Recreation Commission**  
**P.O. Box 414 117 North Park**  
**Valley Center, Kansas 67147**  
**Phone: 316 - 755-7345 / Fax: 316 - 755-3018**  
**e-mail: vcrc@feist.com**

January 20, 2000

Dear Becky Hutchins,

It has been brought to our attention, that a hearing on House Bill 2274 will be held this coming Monday. As a professional in the field of public sports and recreation for over 20 years, I unanimously support this kind of legislation. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Steve Geddes, C.L.A.  
Director of Recreation

House Judiciary  
1-24-2000  
Attachment 9  
P. 01





Jeanne Vawter, Principal  
Rob Hays, Asst. Principal  
John Litfln, Curriculum Coordinator  
Steve Dalton, Activities Coordinator

Jardine Middle School, 2600 West 33rd Street, Topeka, Kansas 66611

785/274-4700

1-21-00

Representative Becky Hutchins  
Fax #368-6365

As the Activities Coordinator of Jardine Middle School and an sports official, I would like your support on the House Bill 22-74. Supporting all officials against battery from spectators is something that we must consider and take serious. If we want our kids involved in activities, we must have quality officials.

Thank you.

*Steve Dalton*  
Steve Dalton

Activities Coordinator  
Jardine Middle School  
2600 W. 33 rd.  
Topeka, Kansas 66611

House Judiciary  
1-24-2000  
Attachment 10

Craig Grant Written Testimony  
House Judiciary Committee  
January 24, 2000

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am writing this as an individual and not as a representative of my organization as KNEA does not have a resolution which specifically speaks to this issue. I am writing this as a certified track and field official, having been nationally certified for about 15 years and officiated track and field for about 28 years.

I have not noticed problems with large national meets (such as the Olympic Trials) with officials having problems with spectators. However, there have been problems with local and regional meets in the past. Even the Kansas Relays has not been immune from coaches and parents protesting loudly and vigorously about rulings and judgements from officials. High school and junior high meets have been worse as I have been verbally abused and fellow officials have had close calls as far as actual physical confrontations are concerned. Meet managers have become wiser about how close spectators can come to the finish line. Accutrack timing and finishing machines have made the judgement calls fewer and fewer. I can only imagine what officials in basketball and football games go through in their efforts to officiate in a fair and even manner.

**House Bill 2274** will send a message to the public that battery against a sports official is not accepted behavior and is recognized specially as a separate law in our statute. Officials in Kansas would appreciate this recognition. I hope you pass **HB 2274** favorably. Thank you for your attention to this matter.