

Testimony of Danny L. McDorman, Tri Valley League Commissioner to the
Senate House Judiciary Committee
Proponent for HB 2542 • 2/9/2022

Chairman Patton and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 2542, which would hold people accountable for their actions towards sports officials. As a local League Commissioner, I am greatly concerned with protecting the safety of all sports officials.

As the State of Kansas continues to see the decline in people wanting to be sports officials, the passing of this bill would give us another tool in the recruitment process. Passing of this bill will allow us to let new officials know they are protected while officiating. The State of Kansas is in a CRISIS when it comes to its number of officials. According to a recent study done by the Kansas Sports Officials Association, we are down 23.8% in total for all sports officials across our State.

We know a lot of people feel that they pay to get into contests, it gives them the right to state their opinion towards the officials. As KSHSAA states, school-based athletics is an extension of the classroom, therefore respect and appropriate behavior should be upheld. Additionally, the NCAA has put out recent memorandums on sportsmanship. Actions towards officials is growing at alarming rates, not only nationally but locally as well.

It is time to OFFICIALLY get HB 2542 passed and put on paper. It is for these reasons set forth, that the Tri-Valley League and its 497 Sports officials supports HB 2542 and asks that you recommend it favorably.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'D. McDorman'.

Danny L. McDorman, Tri-Valley League Commissioner