



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Coalitions
Testimony – Proponent
House Committee on Judiciary
House Bill 2542
February 8, 2022

Chairman Patton, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit neutral testimony on HB 2542.

Kansas NEA fully recognizes the growing shortage of game officials in KSHSAA sponsored events as well as youth sports in general. Individuals could reasonably cite hostile environments and experiences as contributing factors to these shortages.

Kansas NEA does not wish to weigh in on the philosophical larger legal debate over the creation of additional crimes and punishments regarding the actions and behaviors that take place in the youth sporting environment. We believe that criminal statutes already exist that may suffice if enforced.

Kansas NEA would be remiss as well, if given the chance to discuss increasingly hostile environments, to remain silent about the growing concern of safety in the classroom.

We would appreciate the indulgence of the committee to listen to three public school teachers to talk about their personal experiences that are examples of instances that are increasingly occurring beyond the fields and courts of play.

Here with us today is:

- Katie Warren - USD 259 Wichita
- Leigh Anne Rogers - USD 233 Olathe
- Linda Sieck - USD 512 Shawnee Mission

We hope that these anecdotal examples will offer perspective should the legislature choose to move forward with this proposed legislation.

We thank you for your time.