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

Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Coalitions  
**Oral Testimony – Neutral**  
House Committee on Education  
House Bill 2139  
February 2, 2023

Chairman Thomas, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit neutral testimony on HB 2139.

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 larger philosophical 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.

Last year during the hearing for similar legislation, The House Judiciary Committee indulged Kansas NEA with hearing the testimony of three public school educators.

Leigh Anne Rogers USD 233 Olathe  
Linda Sieck USD 512 Shawnee Mission

I've provided a link to their testimony from last session and ask you to listen to their personal stories. Their stories ring as true this year as they did last.

<http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20220209/-1/14401>

Their testimony starts at 4:30:35 on the video and lasts approximately 4 minutes.

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.