

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING INCREASED
VIOLENCE IN SPORTS AGAINST SPORTS
OFFICIALS**

2002 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David L. Hogue

This joint resolution of the Legislature strongly urges school and recreational sports officials, parents, and participants to work together to curb the escalating incidences of violence against sports officials.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, in recent years, incidences of violence against sports officials in school and recreational sports programs have increased at an alarming rate both in Utah and throughout the nation;

WHEREAS, in a recent case which garnered national headlines, the father of a youthful hockey player was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of the adult supervising the hockey game;

WHEREAS, these incidences are occurring at a time when the level of civility throughout society is at an all-time low;

WHEREAS, along with road rage and other threats to citizen safety, violence against sports officials is rooted in a lack of self control and an unwillingness to take responsibility for one's actions;

WHEREAS, violence against sports officials can produce a chilling effect among those who would like to serve their community through involvement in sports programs, but who hesitate because of fear of aggressive parents and participants;

WHEREAS, parents should shoulder much of the responsibility for the teaching and practicing of respect and civility both in their families and on the sidelines;

WHEREAS, schools and recreational sports programs can assist in helping parents to participate positively in school and recreational sports, and discuss ways that parents can express concerns in a constructive manner;

WHEREAS, Utah's youth deserve the finest example of sportsmanship in their homes and on their playing fields;

WHEREAS, by following positive examples of conflict resolution and sportsmanship, youth gain tremendous, intangible benefits that will strengthen their resolve to approach problems in a constructive and mature manner throughout life; and

WHEREAS, together, school and recreational sports officials, parents, and participants can help turn the tide of confrontation and retribution that threaten the state's youth, the ideals of sport, and those who give of themselves to teach these ideals to Utah's youth:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah strongly urges school and recreational sports officials, parents, and participants to work together to curb the escalating incidences of violence against sports officials, and return civility and respect to the playing fields of Utah's youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, and to each public school district in the state.