

1 **RESOLUTION OPPOSING INCREASED**
2 **VIOLENCE IN SPORTS AGAINST SPORTS**
3 **OFFICIALS**

4 2002 GENERAL SESSION

5 STATE OF UTAH

6 **Sponsor: David L. Hogue**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, schools and recreational sports programs can assist in helping parents to



28 participate positively in school and recreational sports, and discuss ways that parents can express
29 concerns in a constructive manner;

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

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

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

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

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

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-28-02 9:26 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel