



# Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Kristina D. Roegner  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: S.B. 118

Dear Senator Roegner:

The Criminal Law and Procedure Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference has reviewed your bill, S.B. 118, which would raise the offense of assault from a misdemeanor to a felony if the victim is a sports official. I would like to share with you the concerns of Ohio's judges.

The Judicial Conference generally disfavors sentencing or penalty enhancements based on a special class of victims, in this case those who work or volunteer as "sports officials." The harm that a particular victim suffers should be dealt with no differently simply because that victim falls into a particular class. Judges believe the law must be applied equally regardless of who the victim is, and will always use their discretion in imposing sentences based on all relevant circumstances surrounding the offense, including, but not limited to, the occupation or volunteer activities of the victim.

Thank you for considering the feedback of Ohio's judges. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Josh Williams, OJC Deputy Legislative Counsel, at (614) 387-9767 or [Joshua.Williams@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:Joshua.Williams@sc.ohio.gov).

Sincerely,

Paul E. Pfeifer  
Executive Director

Cc: Sen. John Eklund, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Sen. Cecil Thomas, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

OHIO JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

65 South Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor | Columbus, OH 43215 | 614.387.9750 | 800.282.1510 | FAX 614.387.9759 | [www.ohiojudges.org](http://www.ohiojudges.org)