

**FW: SB-1034 Clate**

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

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To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

**From:** Don Mettee [mailto:dmettee@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2020 11:50 AM

**To:** Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

**Subject:** SB-1034 Clate

Status: In Favor of Bill 1034

Senator Patterson; I am in full support of your SB-1034. I speak from over 40 years of experience as a sports official in Maryland of Youth, High School, Collegiate and Post Collegiate sports. I currently officiate Boys Football, Boy's Lacrosse and Track and Field in Maryland. I am a current member of Maryland High School Officiating Groups for each sport mentioned.

While the participants usually remain under control and respectful; the spectators and sometimes the coaching staff becomes confrontational. There will always be disagreements between officials and coaches and is an expected part of the officiating job. These disagreements usually start in the "heat of the game" and are over with the next start of play (whistle). Over the years, I have watched the confrontations become much more aggressive and continue during the duration and after the game has concluded. The confrontations are of particular concern with spectators harassing officials in parking areas at the conclusion of the contest.

Security for officials at most (non-collegiate) field locations is minimal or non-existent. We, as officials, need this bill as a level of deterrent and consequence for actions.

The bill 1034 will also help in relieving one of the "stressors" of newer officials who are more easily intimidated by the game personnel and crowd. By relieving one of the stressors, there would be an uptick in the retention of newer officials; which is badly needed in all sub collegiate sports.

Thank You for your sponsorship of SB 1034. I can be reached by reply to this email for any additional clarification desired.

Respectfully

Don Mettee  
Official