



## **Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming**

**March 12, 2025**

### **Testimony in OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 2224**

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

For the record, my name is Scott Meske and I'm here on behalf of the ND Gaming Alliance. We are a member-based organization representing all facets of the charitable gaming industry including charities, hospitality, manufacturers, distributors, veterans' organizations and fraternal organizations. We are here today in opposition of SB 2224.

The gaming commission is imperative for many reasons. There are 242 pages of administrative rules that are promulgated through the administrative rule process. Overall approval of any changes to administrative rules are voted on by the gaming commission and then sent to the legislative administrative rules committee for final approval. By removing the gaming commission from the equation, this puts the attorney general as the sole source of any regulation within the industry. We are assuming this bill may have been brought because the gaming commission has not met in over a year. There are reasons for that, including the fact that there are a couple of vacancies on the commission, which we believe the current Governor will fill.

At all levels of government, there are checks and balances. Our founders knew that it would be a bad idea to give too much power to one body, and this is exactly what SB 2224 does by giving 100% of the oversight to one regulator.

Although we think the Attorney General has done a good job overall regulating the industry, taking away this level of checks and balances sets a precarious precedent. In fact House Bill 1525 which passed over to the Senate, actually strengthens the duties of the Commission. The NDGA supports this approach to charitable gaming oversight, rather than condensing all of the power into one office.



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With that, we ask this committee give SB 2224 a Do Not Pass recommendation and I would stand for any questions.

Thank you.