# TESTIMONY OF

# KEN KARLS (#268)

# CYSTIC FIBROSIS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

# SB 2315

# FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Madam Chair Bell and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, my name is Ken Karls and I represent the Cystic Fibrosis Association of North Dakota (CFA).

CFA is a North Dakota charity that has been assisting North Dakota individuals and families for forty years dealing with cystic fibrosis, a terminal disease. CFA assists families with the cost of medications and nutritional support, with the extraordinary costs associated with medical appointments, with college scholarships, lung transplants and other hardship costs caused by fighting this relentless disease.

CFA opposes SB 2315. The section of the NDCC (54-58-03.5) stipulating where tribal gaming can be conducted was originally adopted, having been agreed to by all parties as part of the law regulating Tribal/State Gaming Compacts because of the unique nature of tribal gaming within the State of North Dakota. SB 2315 would remove that geographic stipulation without acknowledging the distinct laws and regulations that have been promulgated in the interim to address each specific set of circumstances between tribal gaming and charitable gaming.

This committee heard a bill this morning (SB 2314) which although granting “eligible organization” status to the tribes, would exempt them from following the laws, rules, and regulations all other eligible organization must follow. Now this bill (SB 2315) would remove any geographical restrictions they have previously agreed to because of the special status they would now enjoy through Tribal/State Gaming Compacts.

Madam Chair and members of the Finance and Taxation Committee, this bill (SB 2315) should not be approved because it ignores the many conflicting laws, rules and regulations existing between Tribal/State Gaming Compacts (NDCC 54-58) which regulate tribal gaming and NDCC 53-06.1 which regulates charitable gaming. I urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2315.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ken Karls

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