

**Testimony in Opposition to
HOUSE BILL NO. 1524
House Finance and Taxation Committee
February 1, 2023**

Chairman Craig Headland, Finance and Taxation Committee members, for the record my name is Rick Stenseth. I have been in charitable gaming since 1983. I am a Gaming Manager for two local organizations in Fargo that both conduct charitable gaming (Northern Prairie Performing Arts (NPPA) aka Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre & Team Makers Club). I am submitting this testimony through our NPPA lobbyist, Todd D. Kranda (#58), who is an attorney with the Kelsch Ruff Kranda Nagle & Ludwig Law Firm in Mandan.

While HB 1524 has one appropriate amendment proposed, the other amendment has no benefit to anyone and should not be include within the Bill. Placing a limitation on progressive jackpot features would be a good thing for this game type, but it could be done by Administrative Rule (Article 99-01.3 ND Admin. Code).

However, the inclusion of an 82% payback maximum within 1524 is completely unnecessary and actually harmful to both the organizations and the players, who would receive a much lower level of prizes. The issue of playback percentages is already addressed in Administrative Rule for Games of Chance and is currently set at no more than 90%, which should remain in place and should not be lowered to the detriment of the players and the organizations.

Simply put, HB 1524 is better not moving forward in its current form and NPPA ask for a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation from the committee.