



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2077

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North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
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Good morning Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2077 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

Our organization is, and always has been, opposed to legalized gambling in North Dakota. In part, we are opposed to gambling given the variety of disorders and negative secondary impacts it can create for North Dakota families. It is vital that we as a state help our citizens deal with these issues sooner as opposed to later – particularly before gambling disorders create even worse problems down the road.

Two changes were proposed to this bill when it was before the Senate State and Local Government Committee. First, we requested that language be changed to clarify that HHS was *required* to operate the program – this change was made in the amended version you have before you today. Second, the North Dakota Gaming Alliance proposed that the gambling disorder prevention program funding be increased from its current level of \$10,000 per quarter to \$80,000 per quarter. We agreed with their position for increased funding of this critical program, however, this proposed change was not incorporated in the current version of the bill.

While we would have liked to see more funding go towards help for those with gambling disorders, we appreciate the continuation of this important program, the additional flexibility given to HHS to contract for services, and the wording change we proposed. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action asks that you please render a “DO PASS” on Senate Bill 2077, as amended by the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am now happy to stand for any questions.