



HCR3002

House Judiciary Committee

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Chair Klemin and Committee Members: My name is Mark Hagerott, and I am the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System. I'd like to provide this written testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 3002, as the NDUS and its institutions have concerns surrounding the effects of sports betting as this could affect our student-athletes and opposed HCR3002. As written, it is still unclear as to whether collegiate sports are included or excluded in the proposed language.

The proposed language to “authorize sports betting to be conducted in the state and licensed and regulated by the state” could potentially include collegiate athletes on full ride scholarships at North Dakota colleges and universities.

Last biennium, I convened a meeting of the eleven campus presidents and all eleven were adamantly opposed to a similar sports betting bill and requested that I carry this information to you.

Why, in general, do campus presidents pass on their concerns?

We believe that opening the door to college sports betting in our state could have massive negative implications to our students that put the safety and welfare of our students and even their families at risk. In states that have allowed this, students have been exposed to illicit agreements and financial benefits that not only put them at risk but challenged their integrity and the purity of those sporting events.

On the face of it, sports betting potentially undermines the integrity of the game and renders unpaid athletes vulnerable to money flowing through their respective games and contingent on their performance.

On behalf of the NDUS college presidents and myself, I respectfully recommend a “do not pass” on HCR3002. However, should the Committee feel compelled to pass HCR3002, I respectfully request that the language be amended to “authorize sports betting on athletic or sporting events not sponsored by a college or university to be conducted in the state and licensed and regulated by the state.”

This concludes my testimony for HCR3002, and I will stand for questions from the committee.

Thank you.