

March 27, 2023

HB 1296

Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am Amy Krueger, Executive Director of the Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. a charitable gaming organization. Regulation has been established for charitable gaming to operate within. This holds organizations and sites accountable to the law and rules that have been established. By removing the ability of a city to deny a charity site authorization, it removes some of the accountability and authority to hold charities and sites accountable to the rules that have been established.

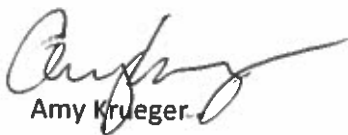
As written, this bill would allow a bar and a charity to retain a lease with no regard for the existing charity currently established at the site. There is no mandatory notice given to the existing charity, and there are very limited grounds for the city to prevent this from happening to the local charities that benefit the communities of which they serve. A larger charity could come in and essentially disband the existing smaller charity. This would remove some of the Cities ability to regulate what is occurring in their communities.

Charities do have a lot of investments tied up in these sites and these would not be secure sound investments not knowing who can strike a better deal from year to year. While the law is clear on what you can offer the bars for rent and compensation unfortunately other promises are made. By the time and investigation is done and action can be taken, it is to late and the law-abiding charity is already gone. I ask that you let the cities that are intended to be the authority, have ability to regulate and control what is happening within their community.

As a Charitable Gaming Organization, not knowing if we are going to be able to retain a site from year to year could impact what we are able to commit to with our charitable funds for larger projects.

I would ask you to vote No on HB 1296.

Sincerely,



Amy Krueger

Executive Director