



Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

March 27, 2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1484

Madam Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm Scott Meske, representing the North Dakota Gaming Alliance and on behalf of the 152 Members of the NDGA, we offer our support for House Bill 1484.

ND Gaming Alliance represents all facets of the charitable gaming industry, including Veteran and Fraternal Organizations, Charities, Hospitality, Manufacturers, and Distributors. Since the laws governing charitable gaming were created, charities and the hospitality industry have worked together under a microscope. The licensed organization must petition the local governing body WITH the proposed gaming site. It is a joint effort, ultimately with the goal of providing valuable charitable donations within that community.

HB 1484 addresses a concern that arose during the administrative rules process this past fall. The concern was brought up by the attorney general's office, the gaming commission, and most recently by some legislators, that E-Tab machines are going to start popping up in every convenience store, gas station, and grocery store in the state. This has never been the intention of the charitable gaming industry, and this bill specifically addresses these issues.

This is not an expansion of gaming. This is a restriction and clearly states that gaming can only be conducted in businesses that have an on-sale liquor license. This will prevent gas stations, convenience stores, liquor stores and grocery stores who are licensed for off-sale alcohol from conducting gaming. Let me repeat that expanding into these types of businesses has never been the goal of the charitable gaming industry, and HB 1484 clarifies this issue.



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The 320 charities and 900-plus gaming sites in North Dakota have been operating under the rules established by this body, and in the last biennium contributed more than \$73 million into North Dakota's community causes because of charitable gaming and an additional \$45 million in taxes paid to the state general fund. It is the local governing body who knows what is best for the community, what makes sense and what is proper for their jurisdiction.

The North Dakota Gaming Alliance respectfully asks that HB 1484 be given a DO PASS recommendation from this Committee. Let's make it crystal clear to communities and charities where gaming can be conducted.

Thank you.