



Benefiting North Dakota Communities through Charitable Gaming

Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2077

Madam Chair Roers and Members of the 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 Senate Bill 2077 with a one minor change, and a simple amendment. We support the option to have it contracted out, but specifically would like the word "may" changed back to "shall" to ensure the department is required to administer the gambling addiction and prevention programs.

To assist with the funding of the programs, we would also request an amendment be added to the bill to *increase* the amount that is designated towards gambling disorder prevention from it's current level of \$10,000 per quarter to \$80,000 per quarter, or an eight-fold increase. Combined with proceeds from the North Dakota Lottery, and the contributions from the Tribal Gaming Compact, the total amount available for the gambling addiction and treatment program would total about \$790,000 each year.

We believe there is more than enough revenue from gaming-generated taxes and contributions to support a comprehensive gaming addiction and treatment program in North Dakota, run by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The North Dakota Gaming Alliance urges a DO PASS on SB 2077 with the proposed modifications as we have outlined.