

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MONA KAY DIETRICH
BEFORE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
IN OPPOSITION OF BILL SB 2035

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Mona Kay Dietrich and I am the present gaming manager for Drayton Curling Club. I have worked in the gaming industry for 30 years at various levels from blackjack dealer, pull tab device, electronic pull tab device and jar operator, site manager to my present position. In the years that I have been involved in the industry, I have not seen irresponsible gambling, it is entertainment for the players and the majority of the players know that the excess revenue generated will benefit the community and surrounding areas through our charitable donations.

Our gaming board is made up of members of the Drayton Curling Club, the oldest curling club in the state of North Dakota, and we meet quarterly to disburse funds per the requests that we receive. Those requests come from our community and across our county and they vary from \$500 to as high as \$10000. Every request is discussed and a monetary amount is approved by the board.

There are organizations across our county that depend upon our charitable donation in order to continue to serve, ie: county backpack program, Christmas Angel tree, LOAN which provides winter gear for children and the county emergency food pantry.

Our charitable donations benefit our community and our county as we have given to fire departments, ambulance services, schools, youth activities and to families that are dealing with medical issues as well as many other organizations.

If SB2035 were to pass in its current form, we would no longer be able to conduct charitable gaming and these vital organizations would lose the financial support that they need to survive. I do not believe the passage of this bill in its present form will change or slow down charitable gaming. Our gaming site will be taken over by another, most likely larger, not local organization and the excess revenue generated will no longer benefit our community and surrounding area. I am in opposition of SB2035 as it is written and I respectfully ask you to oppose this bill as it will dramatically hurt small communities across our state.

Respectfully submitted,
Mona Kay Dietrich
Gaming Manager
Drayton Curling Club