

# HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

## Testimony on Senate Bill 2384

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Submitted by Janelle Mitzel, Development Homes, Inc.

Chairman Klemin & Committee Members,

Thank you for your consideration of a **Do Not Pass** on SB 2384. The intent of the original bill was to allow for international gaming manufacturers to sell electronic products directly to the ND charities and removing ND distributors in the process. This bill has since been amended; however, the charitable gaming industry believes this is the first step in eliminating our long-standing distributor/charity systems that have been in place for decades. The bill also will dramatically hurt the horse racing industry by paralyzing their funding sources.

### **Development Homes, Inc:**

- DHI is a non-profit organization in Grand Forks providing community-based support services to persons with disabilities from all over ND.
- DHI has residential services including seven group homes, two duplex facilities, a multi-unit autism living center, two transitional living centers and multiple independent living settings.
- DHI provides vocational services including job training and placement, and family services including respite care and in-home support.
- DHI serves approximately two hundred individuals from children to adults, serving through all stages of life.
- DHI is currently the 12<sup>th</sup> largest employer in Grand Forks, employing 450 to 500 people. Our economic footprint is vital to our community.

If passed this bill allows manufacturers to work directly with licensed organizations, bypassing local distributors. Some think eliminating the distributors will lower the cost of electronics, however, we have found the ND charitable gaming distributors are working hard to keep prices competitive, while international companies want to dictate and control the entire pricing structure.

The charitable gaming organizations are concerned if the distributors are not directly involved the limited number of manufacturers will monopolize the market with price demands and a take-it-or-leave-it strategy. International manufacturers do not care about local charities and ND; North Dakota distributors do.

International companies interfering in the ND charitable gaming market are funding this bill. Charitable gaming distributors are local, employee local people, and reside in North Dakota.

Keep North Dakota charitable gaming local and vote **NO** on **SB 2384**.