

HB 1212. Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Good morning Chairman Headland and Committee Members

My name is Mike Motschenbacher and I'm here testifying on behalf of the ND Gaming Alliance

We are kindly asking for a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1212

In addition to testimony you have already heard from others in support of this bill which we agree with, one thing I wanted to address was the fiscal note. I know \$18,000,000 looks like a big number, but in short, this amount was never intended to be steered into the general fund. The \$30,000,000 that was put into the general fund over the past biennium was an overlooked mistake. In the 2019 session, there was a similar bill that would have addressed this issue but it failed and as a result, the state unintentionally received approximately \$30,000,000 which was much more than what was requested and estimated by the Attorney General's office. The estimated need from the Attorney General's office was about \$7,000,000 to regulate gaming but as you can see now, much more was withheld from charities due to the formula that was in law. It was simply an unintended windfall. This money could have and should have been distributed to charities who in turn could have supported further Veterans Organizations, Youth Activities, Disabled Children, and many many more good causes. Instead, it was accidentally diverted into the general fund.

So once again, we would ask for a DO PASS recommendation from the committee and would stand for any questions you may have at this time.

Mike Motschenbacher

Executive Director-ND Gaming Alliance

701-471-9014

Ndgalliance@gmail.com