

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**House Bill 1497**  
**January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Testimony Submitted by Charitable Gaming Association of ND**  
**Bill Kalanek**

The Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota urges a  
**Do Not Pass** recommendation on HB 1497.

While charitable gaming in ND has become very popular with the public, many efforts have been made over the past few years to roll-back and stifle charitable gaming operations. House Bill 1497 is an example of this.

HB 1497 seeks to significantly reduce the number of sites allowed per organization in an attempt to weaken the industry. In actuality the site limit in this bill will do nothing to reduce gaming's footprint but instead simply hurt the relatively small number of charities that have more than 10 sites in the state. Viable strong businesses and leadership within the charitable community are developing and this is just an attempt by outside interests who are seeking to do harm.

The effect of this bill would create a situation by where a charities opportunities are reduced by 60%. Strong charities have emerged over many years due to their commitment to hard work and excellence, now we are going to take away their gains. This seems anti-business at best.

Another huge feature of this bill restricts cities/counties to only approve gaming site authorizations to alcoholic beverage establishments. This means over 21 years of age in those buildings. This bill along with others, would eliminate café/bars in small towns, fraternal and veterans' clubs sponsoring community events, senior citizen centers, and convention and hotel centers just to name a few. This legislation is an attempt to drastically reduce the number of **existing** locations and etab machines allowed for charitable gaming across the entire state.

This bill is just the first of many attempts this session to put major restrictions on charitable gaming and electronic pull tabs.

For over 40 years charitable gaming has filled voids in communities, big and small, to meet their direct needs. \$73 million has been raised through charitable gaming during the last fiscal year to support local communities, while adding \$43 million (est.) in taxes through the biennium for the state.

The Charitable Gaming Association of North Dakota would appreciate consideration of a **Do Not Pass** recommendation on HB 1497.