

Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 2304

January 31, 2023

Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Rachel Hafner. I am the Executive Director for The Arc, Upper Valley in Grand Forks. I am providing your committee with written testimony and asking that you vote **“DO NOT PASS”** on SB 2304.

Our organization has been operating charitable gaming since 1990, which has allowed us to advocate for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families in Grand Forks, as well as across the state of North Dakota in collaboration with other chapters of The Arc. Not only has charitable gaming allowed us to provide an array of advocacy services that help people with IDD live, work, go to school, and play in their communities, but it has also helped us employ North Dakota citizens. By providing services and employment, we are contributing to the health and wellness of Grand Forks and other communities around the state.

The number of sites that we operate have reduced over time, and we would like to increase the number of sites that we operate, as this is important to our organization’s sustainability. Obtaining new sites in North Dakota is challenging because there are so many charities competing for sites. Because we have a limited number of sites currently, it is important that we sustain what we have. Limiting the number of games, including electronic pull tab (e-tab) machines, and restricting gaming to “alcoholic beverage establishments,” have the potential to end our charitable gaming operations permanently.

If this bill passes as it is currently written, it will hurt charitable organizations financially and could cause many organizations to cease operations altogether. Please vote **“DO NOT PASS”** on SB 2304. I am available by phone or email to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Rachel A. Hafner,
Executive Director

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