

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1525
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 05, 2025

Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Tara Felice, and I have worked with Mandan Baseball Club for over eight years. In my role, I have witnessed firsthand how charitable gaming contributes to strengthening our community and supporting vital programs. Beyond my professional experience, I am a wife and mother to two children, and I am proud to be part of an organization that not only provides recreational opportunities for our youth, but also reinvests its earnings into our local communities.

Charitable gaming is a crucial part of North Dakota's nonprofit sector, directly benefiting local programs that serve youth, veterans, education, and other community-driven initiatives. These organizations exist solely to reinvest in our communities, filling gaps that might otherwise require taxpayer funding. It is essential that the oversight of charitable gaming remains fair, transparent, and structured in a way that supports—not hinders—these missions.

Under the current regulatory framework, charitable gaming oversight falls under the Attorney General's Office. While well intentioned, this structure limits accessibility and often leaves charities navigating complex regulations with little direct input or clarity. A dedicated Gaming Commission, as proposed in HB 1525, would create a more open and collaborative environment, allowing those directly involved in charitable gaming to provide oversight, ensure compliance, and eliminate much of the uncertainty that exists today. Rather than operating under a system where organizations are left guessing about regulatory expectations, a commission would provide clear, consistent guidance and a forum for meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

HB 1525 presents an opportunity to modernize oversight in a way that strengthens both transparency and effectiveness. By creating a Gaming Commission, we can ensure that those with the appropriate knowledge and expertise handle regulation, creating proper checks and balances while making the process more accessible for the very organizations that charitable

gaming is intended to support. Furthermore, ensuring that hearings related to charitable gaming oversight are live-streamed will enhance transparency and public trust in the regulatory process.

I urge the committee to support HB 1525 and help build a framework that ensures charitable gaming continues to benefit our communities in a fair, efficient, and responsible manner. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Tara Felice