

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SENATE BILL 2347
Testimony Submitted by Janelle Mitzel
Charitable Gaming Director, Development Homes, Inc.
February 5th, 2025

On behalf of Development Homes Inc., I urge a Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2347.

Development Homes, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Grand Forks dedicated to providing community based support services to persons with disabilities. DHI provides residential, vocational, and family services including job training and placement, respite care and in-home support. DHI employs 450-500 people and has a significant fiscal impact on the GF community.

Development Homes, Inc. is a ND licensed off-track betting site operator with operations in two betting locations. Being involved with the ND racing industry since 1995, it is clear this is not a horse racing bill. This is a bill to create large scale casinos or “racinos” in ND.

This bill creates non-traditional ND gaming, redefining, and overhauling gaming as we know it:

- ND charities abide by very strict rules and regulations. Historic horse racing slot machines would not fall under these stringent rules or oversight.
- This bill creates privatized gaming. There is no designated charity or designated charitable purpose. Follow the money – the international manufacturers are the largest benefactor involving historic horse racing slot machines.
- This bill is a major expansion of gaming. Historic horse racing slot machines would have unlimited betting limits and allows unlimited number of machines.
- This bill has unlimited expansion abilities for the private sector in building tracks and racinos across the state.
- This is Vegas style gambling. The payouts are not required to be cash. They can be cars, trips, anything that you would see in large jackpot casino environments.
- This bill would allow for the use of credit cards and credit play on these HHR slot machines. ND outlaws credit play involving ND charitable gaming.

Legislators have a clear choice. For nearly 40 years legislators and the citizens of ND have contributed to a successful, thoughtful partnership raising millions for ND charitable purposes. The passage of this bill raises money for a private international industry at the expense of the 300+ wonderful charities that provide funding for worthy causes across this state.

Thank you for your consideration of a Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2347.