

To: Chair Roers and Member of the Senate Committee on SLG

From: Senator Sean Cleary, District 35 – Bill Sponsor

Date: 3/6/2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HCR 4027 – Prohibiting Gaming Revenues for Political Purposes

Chair Roers and Members of the Committee:

I am here to present HCR 4027 for your favorable consideration. This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit **political campaigns, candidates, and committees** from using **charitable gaming as a fundraising tool**.

Why This Amendment is Needed:

- **Gaming in North Dakota has grown significantly in recent years, generating substantial revenue.** While gaming was initially intended to support nonprofits and community organizations, this has expanded to allow political entities to more broadly use gaming as a fundraising tool.
- **A recent interim study highlighted concerns about the difficulty of tracking gaming money.** By combining gaming with political fundraising, oversight becomes even more convoluted.
- **Gaming was never meant to be a campaign fundraising tool.** Charitable gaming is meant to support nonprofits, not finance political campaigns and PAC's. As charitable gaming continues to grow, we need to be proactive about how it is being utilized.

What This Amendment Does:

- Clarifies that gaming revenues cannot be used for political purposes.
- Promotes public trust in the integrity of charitable gaming and in our elections.
- Ensures transparency and accountability in political campaign funding.

As with all constitutional measures, **passage of HCR 4027 would place this amendment on the ballot for voter approval.** I respectfully ask for a "Do-Pass" recommendation and am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Senator Sean Cleary

District 35

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