

2025 HOUSE JUDICIARY

HCR 3002

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HCR 3002
1/15/2025

A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact section 25 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota, relating to authorizing sports betting.

9:01 a.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Johnston, McLeod, Olson, Satrom, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Representative Hoverson

Discussion Topics:

- On-site retail sports betting
- Administrative costs and tax benefits
- College athlete harassment
- Out of state sports betting regulations
- Sports betting age restrictions

9:02 a.m. Representative Scott Louser testified in favor.

9:18 a.m. Katie Fitzsimmons, North Dakota University Systems Director of Student Affairs, testified in opposition and provided testimony #29133.

9:35 a.m. Carter Gill, Vice President of Governmental Affairs with the North Dakota Student Association, testified in opposition and provided testimony #28984.

9:41 a.m. Jacob Thomsen, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action Policy Analyst, testified in opposition and provided testimony #29154.

9:47 a.m. David Tamisiea, Executive Director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference, testified in opposition and provided testimony #29090.

Additional written testimony:

Nicholas Lelito, Bismarck, North Dakota, submitted testimony in favor #29116.

9:55 a.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk



HCR 3002

House Judiciary

January 15, 2025

Katie Fitzsimmons, Director of Student Affairs, NDUS

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Good morning, Chair Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Katie Fitzsimmons and I serve as the Director of Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I am here on behalf of the North Dakota University System and its eleven institutions to provide testimony in opposition to the passage of HCR 3002.

The proposed resolution would expand gambling in the state to include sports betting on both professional and collegiate athletics. While there may be perceived benefits to legalizing sports betting and using that revenue for education, the negative consequences—particularly for student athletes and college students—are deeply concerning and cannot be ignored. I urge this committee to carefully consider the impact that legal sports betting would have on college campuses and athletic programs across our state. I will provide information about the unfortunate consequences other states have experienced because of sports betting, the impact on college students, and the most profound and personal effects on student athletes.

Sports betting was banned in 1992 but was overturned by the United State Supreme Court in 2018. 38 states and the District of Columbia have since legalized sports betting in some form, yielding billions of dollars in revenue annually. Many sports fans consider this practice harmless and fun but the rise of sports betting has “caused a wave of financial and familial misery” according to an article by Charles Fain Lehman¹. In a study conducted by Northwestern University², it found that for every \$1 bet on sports, households put \$2 less into investment accounts, placing retirement funds and savings accounts in precarious positions. States with legalized sports betting have documented increases in overdrafted bank accounts and maxxed out credit cards. In another study from economists from UCLA and USC³, when you look specifically at online sports gambling, the risk of a household going bankrupt increases 25-30% and it increases debt delinquency. These issues are most prevalent for young men living in low-income counties, which provides even more evidence that those most negatively affected by sports betting are the least well-off. This, as you can imagine, keeps many Americans on a financial hamster wheel. Instead of saving money or paying off

¹ Lehman, Charles Fain. “Legalizing Sports Gambling Was a Huge Mistake.” The Atlantic, September 23, 2024.

² Baker, Scott, R. “Gambling Away Stability: Sports Betting’s Impact on Vulnerable Households”, July 9, 2024.

³ Hollenbeck, Brett; Larsen, poet; Proserpio, Davide. “The Financial Consequences of Legalized Sports Gambling.” August 2, 2024.

debt, they are searching for the next sure bet or a long shot that will redeem their losses.

Not only does legalized sports betting harm the financial position of Americans, it increases violence. In a study from the University of Oregon⁴, states with legalized sports betting have 9% higher rates of intimate partner violence than states without sports betting. These three studies were able to look at numbers in states before and after the legalization of sports betting so while some will want to say all of these figures are correlations, the researchers will argue that these are direct effects of sports betting.

Proponents of sports betting will argue that the tax benefits generated by this form of gambling can be worthwhile. That does not ring true; with elevated poverty and increased need for services, higher rates of domestic violence and thus, a deeper need for law enforcement and foster care, those meager extra tax dollars will not plug the hole. The current states that have legalized and taxed sports betting only take in roughly \$500 million per quarter, which is less than alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana. Further, the illegal market continues to flourish⁵.

While all of these statistics are far from cheery, the outlook on a college campus for sports betting becomes even darker. According to a study out of the University of Buffalo⁶, one in ten college students are considered “probable pathological gamblers” whereas the rest of the United States populace fares at rates of one in fifty to one in twenty. The researchers credit online betting apps for the higher rates among college students who have higher rates of technology dependence and access, plus the lack of impulse control in the developing brains of college students. In another survey conducted by the NCAA⁷, nearly 60% of surveyed college students have bet on sports and 4% place bets daily. 6% reported losing more than \$500 in a single day. Keith Whyte, the executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling stated, “The biggest increases in gambling participation have been among young, educated men. The closer you are to college, the more likely you are to bet sports.”⁸

The potential for increased debt and financial instability among students cannot be understated. Many students already struggle with significant loan debt and lack financial

⁴ Matsuzawa, Kyutaro; Arneson, Emily. “Sports Betting Legalization Amplifies Emotional Cues & Intimate Partner Violence.” September 24, 2024.

⁵ Grundy, Adam. “Quarterly Survey of State and Local Tax Revenue Shows Which States Collected the Most Revenue from Legalized Sports Betting.” February 13, 2024.

⁶ Nowak, Donald E.; Aloe, Ariel M. “The Prevalence of Pathological Gambling Among College Students: A Meta-analytic Synthesis, 2005-2013.”

⁷ Sports Betting Activities Survey; April 2023.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/research/wagering/Apr2023NCAA_WageringKeyFindings.pdf

⁸ Staley, Oliver. “An Explosion in Sports Betting is Driving Gambling Addiction Among College Students.” Time Magazine. December 12, 2023.

literacy. Sports betting is a dangerous temptation, leading students to bet more than they can afford, ultimately deepening their financial distress. The normalization of gambling will exacerbate these problems, making it even more difficult for students to maintain their academic focus and achieve their goals.

Another piece complicating gambling addiction on college campuses is that getting help for a gambling issue is not always accessible. Therapists that specialize in gambling addiction are not prevalent and college campuses will struggle to offer those specialized services.

Finally, the impact on student athletes. The introduction of legal sports betting creates an environment where these athletes are subject to external pressure to influence game outcomes; we have seen this demonstrated in other states. While we trust the integrity of our college athletes, legal sports betting opens the door to exploitation by individuals or groups who stand to gain financially by manipulating the outcomes of games. This can have catastrophic consequences not only on the athletes' personal lives and careers but on the credibility and integrity of the entire collegiate athletic system. Not to mention that student athletes themselves are at a much higher risk for developing gambling addictions.

In the six years since the United States Supreme Court paved the way for legal sports gambling across the country, harassment and abuse directed at student athletes has grown. Charlie Baker, the president of the NCAA, testified to members of the federal Senate Judiciary committee in December 2024 to call for a prohibition on proposition bets, or "prop bets". Prop bets are wagers on something other than the game's final outcome; it can be a bet on a particular player's performance. Prop bets are responsible for 10-15% of NCAA Division I athletes reporting harassment by bettors. Baker testified that "Many [student athletes] have received death threats from bettors, and they also receive other, in-person threats and accusations directed at them while they're leaving or coming onto the field of play."⁹ Baker continued with examples; he spoke of a University of North Carolina basketball player who, in the first week that prop bets were allowed in the state, received over 100 private messages from angry gamblers after one game because of his rebounding stats. Baker cited the harassment student athletes receive from classmates and friends: "They basically say, 'Look, you're my friend. I'm not looking for you to lose a game, I just need you to miss the first two free throws.'"

College athletes, often under immense stress and with limited financial resources, could be more susceptible to illegal or unethical behavior if they are targeted by friends, family members, teammates, gamblers, or bookies seeking to influence game results. Even the mere perception of corruption—whether real or imagined—could tarnish the reputations of college

⁹ Sullivan, Becky. "The president of the NCAA calls for a ban on 'prop bets' in college sports. NPR News. December 17, 2024.

sports and diminish the integrity of programs that are meant to emphasize education, character, and fair competition.

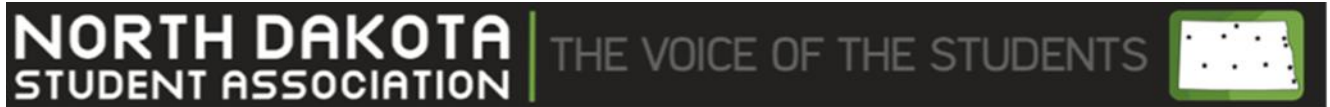
College athletes around the country are calling for a prohibition on prop bets. Ohio is working with gaming regulators to remove prop bets from their books across the state. Louisiana, Maryland, and Vermont are moving in that direction too. Some other quick stats from the NCAA¹⁰:

- One in three high-profile athletes receive abusive messages from someone with a betting interest
- 90% of harassment is generated online or through social media
- Women's basketball student athletes received approximately three times more threats than men's basketball student athletes
- Student athletes are not the only group experiencing threats; game officials, administrators, and other athletics employees have been harassed related to their involvement in competitions
- During the last Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championship games in 2024, over 4,000 posts/comments were deemed abusive or threatening to individual student athletes, with some elevated to law enforcement.

As demonstrated in my testimony, North Dakota has dodged some of the harms of legalized, full-court press, sports betting. As we have seen proven in other states, expansion of sports betting in our state will absolutely lead to an increase in gambling-related harms for many citizens, financial instability or ruin for some, higher rates of domestic violence, increased rates of gambling in college students, and added pressures, exploitation, and abuse to our student athletes. There are countless examples of students whose lives have been derailed due to gambling addiction, and this bill would create a scenario where more young people are exposed to these risks. We should not be complicit in creating an environment that fosters unhealthy habits, normalizes a dangerous habit, and adds burdens to our students.

I ask this committee to move a Do Not Pass recommendation in order to protect the integrity of college sports and the health and safety of our students. If the committee still has an appetite to open the issue of sports betting in North Dakota to the voters despite the known risks that will inordinately be on the backs of lower-income citizens and students, I ask that you tighten the parameters to exclude collegiate athletics and prop bets to protect student athletes in North Dakota. I thank you for your time and will field questions to the best of my ability.

¹⁰ Heath, S. May 17, 2024. <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/5/17/media-center-sports-betting-culture-negatively-impacts-mental-health-ncaa-works-to-support-student-athletes.aspx>



HCR 3002

January 15, 2025

Carter Gill, North Dakota Student Association

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Chair Klemin and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter Gill, and I am Vice President of Governmental Affairs. I am here today in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3002.

The North Dakota Student Association is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects higher education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in discussions about North Dakota higher education policy. Since 1969, our mission has been to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to provide a student perspective on higher education policy.

During the last academic year, the NDSA General Assembly approved [NDSA-14-2324](#): A resolution in opposition to the expansion of sports betting in the state of North Dakota. The resolution focused on how sports gambling is attractive to college students and has infiltrated particularly male spaces. Many sports betting companies' have aggressively marketed and taken predatory tactics towards men to start gambling on sports.

From research, these tactics have been shown to work, where now one in ten college students are pathological gamblers, according to the [University of Buffalo](#).¹ This is significantly higher than the national average of 2-5%. This increase in gambling addiction, which is a disorder recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, puts a financial strain on victims of the disorder. Additional research has shown that pathological gamblers who primarily wager on

¹ https://time.com/6342504/gambling-addiction-sports-betting-college-students/?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_8549999_nl_Afternoon-Update_date_20231214&cid=pm&source=ams&sourceid=.

sports are more likely to have substance abuse problems than other types of pathological gamblers. Since 2019, the number of people in the state of Connecticut who have contacted the state's gambling hotline has doubled, and those who need help are getting younger, impacting college-age students.

Regarding its specific impact on students, students come to North Dakota to earn their degree, participate in athletics, and build professional relationships; not to participate or be the subject of sports betting. A concern among delegates of the NDSA is its impact on the social-emotional health of student athletes. When it comes to professional sports, there is a disconnect between the spectator and the player. In college sports, the student athletes attend classes, social events, and are actively participating on campus. The disconnect that exists in professional sports does not exist in college sports. The introduction of broad access to sports gambling in North Dakota creates the potential for an environment that is even more stressful for college athletes than what already exists. In states where sports betting on college sports is legal, conditions have reached a point in college athletics where the [NCAA](#) has published a press release detailing how in 2024, the NCAA and their data partner Signify Group had verified over 5,000 instances of online interactions that were abusive, discriminatory, or threatening.²

The study found that during March Madness, women's basketball players received threats three times the rate of male players. Overall, the most common form of online interaction the previously mentioned forms was in a sexual manner to both male and female athletes. The study also determined that 12% of all recorded online abuse was directly tied to sports betting, but other categories such as racism and sexism was also influenced by sports betting. Also, the University of North Dakota has reported a six-fold increase in counseling appointments directly related to sports gambling addiction. Continued legalization of sports betting would contribute to our North Dakota student athletes to be further exposed to this online abuse as well as a strain on in-person relationships.

The NDSA strongly opposes this bill on the basis of its impact on NDUS students and student athletes and asks the committee to give a DO NOT PASS recommendation to this resolution.

²<https://click.mail2.ncaa.com/?qs=75995aa83c1601c9af9be1c0de5e81b1282db32ee8bc9d53fe54ceb4dd7d31887b97ebbc7dc96f60bb6eb73ecf6ebb5c13f88baec5dfa00>.



Testimony Opposing House Concurrent Resolution 3002

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 15, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Klemin and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3002 and respectfully request that you render a “DO NOT PASS” on this resolution.

As we all know, in May 2018, the Supreme Court struck down a 1992 federal law that effectively banned commercial sports betting in most states. As a result, many states, including ours, have been looking at potentially legalizing sports betting ever since. But at what cost?

One of the problems our organization has with legalized sports betting is devaluation of sports for its own sake. In other words, fundamentally changing the meaning of American sports. On a personal level, I have grown up watching sports my whole life. I am a former college football player, and I have a certain level of reverence for sports as a means of unity among people from all different cultures and a beautiful, (mostly) friendly way of competition. I love sports for sports.

The pervasive spread of sports betting in our country has seeped its way into the living room of every sports fan in America. One simply cannot watch a sporting event anymore without being harassed by lucrative sports betting ads saying things like, “bet \$5 and get \$150, \$200, \$250 in bonus bets, \$500 risk free, \$2,000 risk free,” and on and on. Sports conversation in many instances has been watered down to talk about how to bet. Things like, “what are the odds, is this team going to hit the over, is this game going to cover the spread?” Sports talk shows used to be about sports, not betting odds.

Another issue we have with this resolution is associated with compulsive gambling disorders. According to the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, around 3 percent of North Dakotans struggle with compulsive gambling¹, which means around 23,517 North Dakotans have a problem with gambling that harms them and their family.

¹ KX News, *How Can You Fight Gambling Addictions in North Dakota?* (2025), <https://www.kxnet.com/news/top-stories/how-can-you-fight-gambling-addictions-in-north->

Gambling is an addiction where it seems that the way out of the problem is the source of the problem. It appears you can bet your way back out of your losses. Then, if you actually do make it out of the hole you've dug yourself into with a big win, the chances of you putting that money right back into betting with hopes of another big win are far greater than stepping away from it altogether.

A study led by Brett Hollenbeck of the UCLA Anderson School of Management found in states where sports betting has been legalized, credit scores decreased, auto loan delinquency increased, debt collection amounts increased by 8%, and bankruptcy filings increased by 28%.²

One of the unique problems with sports betting is that a person can believe they can predict what is going to happen, based on their knowledge of sports. However, anyone who watches sports can attest to the fact that anything can happen. This type of betting is targeted at the demographic of younger males, in their 20s and 30s, which can be found through the alarming increase in calls from their age group to problem gambling centers.³

Speaking as a young male in the demographic that sports betting is targeted to, I can attest to the fact that I think I know more about sports than I probably do. I can understand why the marketing strategies of these sports betting companies are attractive. I mean, if I can turn \$5 into \$250 without any effort, why wouldn't I? All I have to do is know something about sports. But to boost the hubris even more, an ad from Hard Rock Bet states, "You don't need to know everything about every sport, - all you need is a feeling and a phone."

There is a quote from a user on Reddit that sums up this problem, "I just don't get it man .. literally every parlay I've ever done I ALWAYS miss by 1-2 picks. Have lost thousands this month I just don't understand [what] I'm doing wrong man."⁴

Finally, if we look to the west at our neighbors in Montana, tax revenue generated from sports betting was only equivalent to .05 percent of their general fund spending in 2023⁵, which is the

[dakota/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20ND%20department%20of%20Health,of%20North%20Dakotans%20struggle%20with%20compulsive%20gambling.](#)

² Hollenbeck, Brett and Larsen, Poet and Proserpio, Davide, The Financial Consequences of Legalized Sports Gambling (July 23, 2024). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4903302>

³ NBC News. (2025, January 14). *Gambling addiction hotline calls surge as online sports betting expands*. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/mental-health/gambling-addiction-hotline-calls-online-sports-betting-rcna145539>

⁴Reddit Post

⁵ Legal Sports Report, *Sports Betting Revenue* (2025), <https://www.legalsportsreport.com/sports-betting/revenue/>; Urban Institute, *State Fiscal Briefs: Montana* (2025), <https://www.urban.org/policy-centers/cross-center-initiatives/state-and-local-finance-initiative/projects/state-and-local-finance-initiative/projects/state-fiscal-briefs/montana>.

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last full year of records. Simply put, the tax revenue gained from sports betting is not the significant source of funding it is thought to be. Especially not in light of the terrible consequences on those who experience addiction because of this.

As elected legislators, you are in a unique position with this resolution. Do you give the power to vote on this to the public, or do you decide here and now to use your knowledge and voter confidence in your decision-making to put this idea to rest? We believe that you were elected to serve the people of North Dakota and handle issues like this in the legislative branch, rather than kick the can down the road through a ballot initiative. You understand the totality of the budget and whether revenue numbers are significant. You are elected as the best group of people to decide this issue.

Because of these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you, as legislators, decide the issue here and give this resolution a "DO NOT PASS." Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I will stand for any questions.



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

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To: House Judiciary Committee
From: David Tamisiea, Executive Director
Re: HCR 3002 - Sports Betting
Date: Jan 15, 2025

The North Dakota Catholic Conference opposes House Concurrent Resolution 3002.

Although the Catholic Church teaches that games of chance or wagers are not in themselves immoral, they become morally unacceptable when they deprive a person of what is necessary to provide for his or her own needs or those of others.¹ In addition, the common good must always be protected. Today, the passion for sports betting carries a high risk of becoming an enslavement and of diminishing the noble aspects of sport. Sports betting presents a serious threat to the human person and undermines the common good. For this reason, the North Dakota Catholic Conference opposes any expansion of this kind of gambling in North Dakota.

HCR 3002 would legalize, for the first time in the state's history, for-profit gambling operations, and would mark a major cultural shift. This unprecedented change to the gambling laws in North Dakota poses even greater threats those who suffer from gambling addictions, their families, and the common good than does the mere expansion of charitable gaming in the state.

HCR 3002 would make gambling easy and accessible 24/7 from any computer or smartphone. It would effectively put a sports-book casino in every bedroom, dorm room, living room, and workplace in North Dakota. Combining easy access by cell phone or laptop to the lure of gambling is like adding gasoline to fire. Just as ready access to online pornography has led to astronomical rates of porn addiction, the same dynamic can be expected with legalizing sports betting. Gambling addiction is associated with high rates of financial distress, divorce, substance abuse, depression, and suicide.

At the 2021 legislative session, the online sports betting platform DraftKings testified in support of legalizing sports betting in North Dakota and offered the state of New Jersey as a model for our state to follow: "In New Jersey, which has surpassed even Nevada to become the most successful state to implement sports betting, over 90% of bets are placed

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church* No. 2413.

by customers using mobile apps and websites.”² But there is a dark side to the sports betting craze in New Jersey. Since 2018, the year New Jersey legalized sports betting, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey has seen a **277%** increase in calls to its problem gambling helpline.³ The Council says this surge in calls comes mostly from young adults, and that the majority are young men betting on sports. According to a New Jersey government-commissioned report by the Rutgers University Center for Gambling Studies, the prevalence of high-risk problem gambling is now at **6%** of the state’s population.⁴ Gambling addiction has gotten so bad that in 2024 the governor of New Jersey established a special task force to address problem gambling in the state. Why would North Dakota ever want to go down this same road?

Sport at its best is good for the human person and society. It fosters virtues like diligence, courage, grit, self-sacrifice, commitment to excellence, and working with others toward a common goal. It has the capacity to draw people together from different cultures and backgrounds in friendly competition. There is a kind of joy in athletic competition not found in any other endeavor, and this joy can be participated in by fans.

Sports gambling, especially when facilitated by commercial operators, tends to spoil the nobility of sport. It reduces athletic contests to mere mercenary affairs for economic gain. It commodifies athletes and instrumentalizes them as objects of use contrary to their human dignity. Moreover, it does this without the athlete’s consent.

We urge a **Do Not Pass** recommendation on HCR 3002.

² Testimony of Rebecca London on behalf of DraftKings to the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee (February 17, 2021). Online at https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/67-2021/testimony/SFINTAX-3032-20210315-9077-F-LONDON_REBECCA.pdf.

³ Bobby Brier, “Surge in problem gambling in NJ - and in calls for help,” in *NJ Spotlight News* (September 26, 2024). Online at <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/09/problem-gambling-surges-in-new-jersey-more-young-men-call-helpline-sports-betting/>.

⁴ L. Nower, J.F. Stanmyre, and V. Anthony, *The Prevalence of Online and Land-Based Gambling in New Jersey: Report to the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement*. New Brunswick, NJ: Authors (2023). Online at https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2023-10/Prevalence_Report_2023_Final.pdf.

HCR3002

January 15, 2025

To whom it may concern in the House Judiciary committee for the state of North Dakota,

My name is Nicholas Lelito and I am writing in support of HCR 3002 which is relating to legalizing sports betting. This bill has been heard on previous occasions going all the way back to 2023. Adjustments have been made according to previous criticisms and recommendations from previous hearings.

I believe that, we as citizens of the state of North Dakota, should have the ability to legally sports bet to the fullest of its capacity as this bill intends to make it. Currently we have the ability to sports bet in a limited capacity at tribal casinos in the state which are located, primarily, large distances away from the most populated cities in the state of North Dakota. Even at these locations, the quality of bets that are able to be made are quite limited.

There are some current “nontraditional” options for betting on sports in the state of North Dakota other than traveling a distance to the tribal casinos which would include the daily fantasy apps of Prize Picks, Underdog, Sleeper and Fliff. These apps allow you to wager real money on “player props” across various types of sports including but not limited to the NFL, WNBA, MLB, NBA, NHL, professional tennis, golf and even college sports like college football and college basketball. These apps only allow you to wager on specific athletes and not specific teams or totals that this bill would allow the average North Dakotan to place a wager on. Other “nontraditional” options for a North Dakotan would include offshore sportsbooks, which run their payment and withdrawals through offshore sources cutting out the state and federal tax structure, private “bookie’ing” which individuals taking wagering stakes and even through traveling to states where sports betting is legal and placing wagers in that state which would cut out the state of North Dakota on any taxable revenue.

Currently 38 states have legal sports gambling in some limited capacity more than what the state of North Dakota has. Obviously there are states like Illinois, New York, New Jersey and Arizona that have large populations so large taxable revenue will be achieved. With that being said below are a few examples of states similar in population size and/or population mentality as the state of North Dakota where sports gamble is legal and

provides taxable revenue to the state(for reference the state of North Dakota had a census population of roughly 780,000 in 2023):

Delaware – population size of roughly 1,000,000 people took about \$71 million in bets with a revenue of \$9.8 million

West Virigina – population of 1.7 million people took about \$527 million in bets with a revenue of \$5.3 million

Iowa – population of 3.2 million took about \$2.2 billion in bets with a revenue of \$12.3 million

Wyoming – with a population of roughly 560,000 people took \$156 million in bets with a tax revenue of \$1million

Montana – with a population of 1.1 million people. Sports gambling only legal by machines and not via the phone where residents have to go to local bars or gas stations to place the bets. These are spread across the state and not just at Casinos took \$59million in bets and had \$1.3 million in revenue.

[Sports Betting Tax Revenue: States, Sportsbooks, and Consumers](#)

Although no 2 states are equal in size and population distribution, these examples highlight the amount of money that is currently being wagered within these states and the ability to collect revenue for each state with minimal infrastructure needed by that specific state. The companies that allow for legal wagering would provide the majority of the technology and reporting of earnings to the state of North Dakota each year.

The state of Montana is a great example of the fact that even in a limited capacity a large some of money is being wagered and taxes are being collected on the winnings.

There have been numerous oppositions to this bill specifically citing concern for addiction and loss of wages for the state of North Dakota. This state as well as local municipalities allow for the ability to have any legal aged individual (21 or older) to enter a bar and play games of chance like pull tabs, electronic pull tabs(e-tabs) machines, blackjack or on some occasions “pig wheel.” These games of chance currently have legislation that states that a portion of the earnings goes towards a local charity which in most cases are local youth sport clubs. Some of the revenue still goes to the bar or establishment as well as the companies that hire the workers or service the machines. Even though these games of chance are sponsoring local youth sport clubs the activity raising the money is still fundamentally gambling as would be sports betting. Whether you are placing a wager on blackjack or betting on a sports team you are still gambling. You are

taking earned wages and making the decision to enter in a game of chance to “win a bet” knowing that you have a chance to lose and lose your earned money.

I do currently engage in sports betting in the state of North Dakota with the currently legal opportunities I have at my disposal. I also take advantage of gambling on sports while traveling to legal states within the United States. Sports betting in these legal states will take my taxable revenue outside the state of North Dakota and benefit that legal state I gambled in, rather than the one I currently live in. There are numerous examples of individuals traveling across state borders to legal states to sports gamble. This is especially true from residents who live close to borders in illegal states who travel to a state where it is legal, as the news article highlights below.

[No more driving across state lines, Kentucky sports betting is now live](#)

The state of North Dakota has the ability to pass legislation that would allow its citizens to place wagers on sports teams and gain taxable revenue to put towards statewide needs without raising the state income tax, property tax or even sales tax which would affect every citizen. As previously stated above, there are many avenues that a North Dakotan can already gamble on sports however it is quite limited. We have the ability to open up an untapped source of revenue for the state of North Dakota and capture taxable revenue to help advance our state’s prosperity.

I urge the committee to give a PASS vote to the resolution currently on the table for HCR3002 to allow legal sports betting in the state of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time,

Nicholas Lelito

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HCR 3002
1/15/2025

A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact section 25 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota, relating to authorizing sports betting.

2:30 p.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, McLeod, S. Olson, Satrom, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

Discussion Topics:

- Potential for the bill to be on the ballot
- Potential effects on the state

2:32 p.m. Representative S. Olson moved a Do Not Pass.

2:32 p.m. Representative VanWinkle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	N
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

2:34 p.m. Motion passed 13-1-0.

2:34 p.m. Representative Satrom will carry the bill.

2:35 p.m. Chairman Klemin adjourned the meeting.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HCR 3002 ([25.3024.02000](#))

Judiciary Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3002 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.