
Prevention Action Alliance

Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee Prevention Action Alliance November 20, 2019

Good morning, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written only testimony as an interested party in consideration of Substitute House Bill 282 (“HB 282”). My name is Marcie Seidel, and I am the Executive Director of Prevention Action Alliance (PAA). PAA is a 32-year-old statewide nonprofit based in Columbus, Ohio. We are dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. PAA offers a wealth of resources, training services, grants, and advocacy opportunities for those who are active in the prevention and mental health fields.

HB 282 in its current form contains little to no safeguards that are both customary and necessary when looking to expand gambling in our state. As with other pieces of gambling related legislation we as prevention advocates fight to ensure that consumer health and safety are protected so that our state can continue its strong history of collaboration with the behavioral health field regarding gambling and responsible gaming. We are cognizant of the fiscal benefit that a bill like this could provide to charitable organizations in our state but urge the sponsors and the members this committee to consider those who experience negative consequences as a result of gambling. All that being said, we advocate for the inclusion of the following in this bill:

- Required training for all employees/volunteers
- Dedicated funds from licensing to support problem gambling services
- Requirements to include the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline

We believe that adding these three items to the bill will strengthen the bill greatly by ensuring that the expansion and/or facilitation of legalized gambling is done in a responsible, evidence-based manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written-only testimony as an interested party will be in communication with the chairs office if any questions arise.