



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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Written Testimony – Ohio Senate Finance Committee
House Bill 132
November 15, 2017

Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on behalf of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) in support of House Bill 132 and the subsequent amendment being considered before committee regarding more narrowly tailoring the scope of "fantasy contest" by excluding any pari-mutuel or other Horse or Horse Racing wagers

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) is a non-profit organization serving Standardbred horse owners, breeders, trainers, drivers and fans who participate in the sport of harness racing in the Buckeye State. OHHA was founded in 1953. The mission of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is to preserve, protect, promote and serve the entire Standardbred industry in Ohio and beyond.

The OHHA appreciates the thoughtful work performed by this committee to ensure this legislation achieves fantasy contest enactment, operation, and oversight without inadvertently expanding fantasy contests to include contests not currently provided for under ORC Chapter 3769. Without amendment on H.B. 132, horse racing pari-mutuel pool wagers handled by out-of-state entities, such as Derby Wars, would fall under the purview of H.B. 132 as a Fantasy Contest. While Derby Wars identifies their wagers as a "Contest," the program is a pari-mutuel pool, horse racing-based wager on live Ohio racing, where all money in the pool is not returned to the players. Regulation and oversight for horse and horse racing pari-mutuel pool "Contests" (in name only) like Derby Wars, properly lies under the jurisdiction of the Federal Interstate Horseracing Act (IHA) and ORC Chapter 3769. Additionally, regulatory oversight of pari-mutuel pools on live Ohio racing and horse racing licensees is handled by the Ohio State Racing Commission.

We thank the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, the legislation's sponsors, and stakeholders for tailoring H.B. 132 to "Sports Fantasy Contests" alone, and specifically excluding any pari-mutuel or other Horse or Horse Racing wagers, whether "Fantasy," "Contest," or otherwise.

Sincerely,

Renée Mancino
Executive Director