
Prevention Action Alliance

Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee Prevention Action Alliance October 8, 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 testimony as an interested party in consideration of Substitute House Bill 194 (“Sub HB 194”). 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.

As prevention advocates, we strive to help Ohio’s citizens develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to make good choices and promote positive behaviors. Though we are neutral regarding legalized gambling and gambling expansion, we would like to make sure that prevention strategies and consumer protections are included in any and all gambling related legislation. That said, we advocate for the inclusion of the following in this bill:

- The Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC) to serve as the regulator
- Limiting sports wagering to Ohio’s four casinos and seven racinos
- Limiting sports wagering to professional U.S. sports

We believe that adding these three items to the bill will strengthen the consumer protections that are already included in the bill and will ensure that the expansion 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.