

**Proponent testimony of Richard A. Schuck
In support of HB 282
Ohio Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
December 2, 2020**

Chairman Coley and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee in reference to HB 282.

I am Richard Schuck, and I come from the Allen County side of the City of Delphos, of District 12, not to be confused with the Van Wert County side which is in District 1; in which I once resided. I was involved in the original gaming legislation discussions in the early 2000's which were held by, at that time, Ohio Representative Keith Faber and Ohio Senator Jim Jordan. Their hard work was instrumental in having legislation that does a good job of legalizing gaming for veterans and service clubs, as well as 501(c)3 charities, with wording that insures portions of the proceeds will go to charitable causes.

What was not included at that time was the regulating of electronic means of gaming. The language in this bill cleans up and spells out how electronic games of chance shall be permitted, as well as insuring how portions of the proceeds shall be distributed. The gaming legislation has allowed the program to become a well oiled machine, which smoothly spells out the requirements of a successful gaming operation. However, over time, it developed a squeaky wheel, or, the issue of electronic gaming. This legislation will fix that squeaky wheel and allow that well oiled machine to keep running smoothly.

The impact is such that, if this legislation is not passed in a timely fashion, the aforementioned clubs will have to cease operation of all electronic gaming machines; currently under injunctive relief. This will impact charitable income to those entities. Any such loss of income will not only affect the ability of the clubs to pay bills, but will affect the charities that depend on that charitable giving. The beauty of this legislation is that it governs the charitable enterprises within the State, those who thrive and survive through volunteerism. Service clubs, etc, have been facing difficulties staying viable due to reduced memberships; especially the veterans organizations. As the veteran population dwindles, clubs inherently have to find creative ways to stay open. Failing to pass this legislation will only put further stress on their ability to remain viable.

I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. The pride of my accomplishments in life is my association with the American Legion Buckeye Boys State program. To that end it was my honor to lead the program, as its President, in 2018. It is a program whereby, each year up to 1,200 of the finest young men in the State of Ohio, from High Schools throughout the state, attend American Legion Buckeye Boys State, where they learn about city, county, and state government through a non-partisan objective education approach. Since its inception in 1936, over 90,000 individuals have experienced the American Legion Buckeye Boys State program.

I know directly how this all affects that program, simply by the number of delegates we have come to the program. Any means of raising funds at the post level can directly impact how many delegates we can teach in any given year. Ohio is recognized as one of the premier programs in the nation; and we have no doubt we are number one in the nation. Having visited other programs there is no doubt in my mind that this statement is accurate.

I simply ask that you pass this legislation.

Thankyou