

**Testimony of David P. Corey, Executive VP  
Bowling Centers Association of Ohio  
Senate Select Committee on Gaming – Sub. SB 176  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

Chairman Schuring, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Select Committee on Gaming, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Sub. SB 176 – Sports Gaming and E-Bingo. My name is David Corey, and I've been the Executive Vice President of the Bowling Centers Association of Ohio for almost 25 years. BCAO is a trade association consisting of 150 of the 200 bowling centers in the state of Ohio, and we represent approximately 5,000 Bowling Center employees. Since the last time we had a chance to testify on March 10, 2021 your Committee has heard numerous entities testify, received numerous communications and have accomplished a lot.

In fact, we couldn't be more grateful Chairman Schuring, to you and your Committee Members for creating a hybrid approach to regulating sports gaming by both the Casino Control Commission and the Ohio Lottery Commission. We believe your foresight of this aspect of Sub. SB 176 will be very impactful to the state of Ohio and local Ohio businesses. This hybrid approach can truly be a win-win for all parties involved.

However, as we all know, with any legislation (or Rule for that fact), "the devil is always in the details." Even though the approach of creating a "Lottery Pool" for Sports Betting is very creative and sounds novel, in practical terms the game is unfortunately, not workable for sports bettors and retailers, and makes the issue much harder than it needs to be. The game and structure, as proposed, is not something that exists in other states and we strongly suspect it will not be a viable gaming option that our bowlers will participate in. We believe there's no need to reinvent the wheel here; other states have been able to administer Sports Betting through their lotteries exclusively or through the hybrid approach.

With your permission Mr. Chairman, we will continue to work with your office, Senate President Huffman's office, and the sponsors – by providing you with suggestions on ways to ensure that Sports Betting through the Ohio Lottery is workable and viable. Our proposal is

one that will benefit the state, the player and all Ohio small business stakeholders that have a keen interest in this issue like Bowling Centers, and on-premise liquor permit hospitality establishments. These entities have helped make the Ohio Lottery what it is today. We want to continue to protect the integrity of an Ohio Lottery Sports Betting product just as we have with the successful operation of other Lottery products especially KENO. We have operated KENO for years in a safe, secure and productive environment with zero money laundering or other security issues. A Sports Betting Lottery product would be a fresh and invigorating game that will help drive bowlers and non-bowlers into our establishments, which we desperately need. Our patrons are the casual bettors, 90-95% of all bettors will be using mobile betting apps and betting in person at the casinos & racinos. We believe that any amended language should require that with a hybrid approach, that includes the Ohio Lottery, should unquestionably mitigate and eliminate the risk to the State of Ohio and its taxpayers, and ensure continued education regarding problem gaming and potential money laundering. Other states have successfully implemented a risk-averse sports betting structure within their state lottery systems, and other safeguards, to ensure the integrity of any Lottery product.

Again, we thank all of you for the hard work you've already put into this important, game-changing issue for Ohio's hospitality community and look forward to continuing to fine-tune Sub. HB 176 for the betterment of all Ohioans and Ohio's retailers.

As always, I'd be happy to try and answer any questions you may have at this time.

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