

Muhammed Nabil Pervaiz,
Interested Party Testimony
Ohio State Senate Select Committee on Gaming
June 10, 2021

Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party regarding SB176.

I appreciate your time and dedication to these important issues and I would like to provide a local perspective as to how gambling has impacted fellow Ohioans in my community. We know from the *Ohio Gambling Study*, and others research, that upwards of 76,400 Ohioans are problem gamblers, 271,600 are at moderate risk, and 571,100 are low risk for problem gambling. Sports gambling having the highest rates of problem gambling will appeal mostly to 18-44-year-old men who are Ohio's highest at-risk group for problem gambling. Other high-risk groups include veterans, teenagers, trauma victims, people with Traumatic Brain Injury, older adults, those who use medications for Parkinson's and Restless Leg Syndrome. The significance that is the human cost should also be accounted for. Serious gambling problems are usually connected to physical and behavioral health concerns. Of those with a gambling disorder, 38% have thoughts of suicide, 32% have tried, and 21% of all people who attempt suicide, say that it is gambling related.

As I look at the impact that gambling has had on my community, I want to make sure that resources are available and protections are in place to lessen further harm. These are requirements for the inclusion of prevention messages in all marketing and promotion. Clear marketing guidelines to provide clarity of promotions, odds of winning, and the costs to participate. Include the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline and/or other statewide resources on all communications from the operators. Also, to include sports betting in the Ohio Voluntary Exclusion program.

I, along with my fellow PGNO members can provide you with subject matter experts regarding the impact of gambling. Based on my experience and expertise, I would expect protections for gambling to include as follows, set and enforced minimum legal age of 21 and include age verification measures; dedicated funds (2-5%) of all sports wagering tax revenue to be directed to prevent, treat & research gambling addiction and mitigation of harms; and to require responsible gaming programs, which include comprehensive employee training, self-exclusion, ability to set limits on time and money spent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party. I look forward to working with you further on these, and other, important issues impacting Ohioans.

Muhammed Nabil Pervaiz

Citation

Linley, J., Frohnapfel-Hasson, S., Sherba, R. T. (n.d.). 2017 Survey of At-Risk and Problem Gambling Prevalence Among Ohioans. Columbus, OH: Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.