

# Ohio Senate Select Committee on Gaming

William McGovern (Bill)  
Interested Party Testimony  
Ohio State Senate Select Committee on Gaming  
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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 the local, state, and National community is saturated with gambling options... AND that five in every hundred gamblers are problem gamblers. One in five of those problem gamblers will attempt AND complete suicide due to gambling addiction impact. I list my son Michael not long after the Horseshoe Casino opened in Cleveland some years ago. Opening more avenues and sports betting will only increase the potential of problem gambling and related societal issues creating more burden and hardship to the Ohio population.

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. Passage of a Bill such as this will overtax the existing resources to problem gamblers and lead to higher state costs in prevention, treatment, recovery, and education. Please, please understand that cost will never be enough to cover loss of life.

I, along with my fellow Cuyahoga Problem Gambling COALITION MEMBERS, PGNO MEMBERS, ADAMHS Bd of Lake County -Suicide Prevention Coalition, and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), 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 AGE VERIFICATION (including on-line video games for loot), DEDICATED FUNDS FOR PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICES, REQUIREMENTS FOR

STAFF/VOLUNTEER TRAINING, Scholarships for educational programs of Treatment Specialists; and 24x7 support hotlines.

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.

Kind regards,  
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