



HOUSE BILL 298 - (LEGALIZE, TAX INTERNET GAMBLING, MAKE OTHER GAMBLING LAW CHANGES)

WRITTEN INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY- OHIO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 27, 2025

Chairman Stewart and Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 21,000 governing members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), and particularly those in the entertainment and hospitality industries, to submit comments on the idea of expanding gaming opportunities in Ohio as it relates to House Bill 298.

By way of background, our typical member employs 15 or fewer and does less than \$2 million in gross receipts. Our members come from all industries and each of Ohio's 88 counties. Our mission is to promote the right of our members to grow, own, and operate their businesses.

As the Ohio General Assembly contemplates expanding gaming options in the state, we strongly encourage the final legislative product to consider a wide range of businesses as potential providers of new gaming. This includes our brick-and-mortar establishments. We believe any limits to internet-only platforms will be a detriment to existing small businesses, including but not limited to bowling alleys, bars, and restaurants, that have embraced the expanded virtual gaming options, like sports betting, in Ohio.

We do not have a position on what types of licenses or permits a business must have to be eligible for expanded gaming options. However, we believe that each business that wishes to offer these additional gaming options to their customers must be given the opportunity to meet the requirements under any new law enacted. Furthermore, we hope that use of license or permit type is not leveraged to significantly narrow the pool of eligible businesses.

We believe it is imperative that our small businesses, many of whom are multi-generational and have been serving their respective communities for decades, be given the chance to provide their customers with additional entertainment opportunities.

Thank you for considering our perspective and supporting the small businesses in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cameron J. Garczyk".

Cameron J. Garczyk
Ohio Assistant State Director
614-221-4107