

Ohio Senate Finance Committee

My name is Aaron McVay, and I serve as the Executive Director of WCAP Counseling, located in Reynoldsburg and Pickerington, Ohio. WCAP has proudly supported the greater Columbus area since 1972. Following in my father's footsteps, who led the organization for 35 years, I assumed this role 12 years ago after his passing. WCAP stands for "We Care About People," a name that embodies our mission and values. With two locations, we provide essential mental health and medication management services to the community.

We are Joint Commission Certified, OHMAS credentialed, and partnered with over 20 major private insurance providers as well as Ohio Medicaid. Our mission is to ensure access to care for everyone, regardless of their financial situation, through a sliding fee scale. In cases of severe financial hardship, we offer free services to ensure no one is left without help.

A key part of our funding comes from state-licensed bingo fundraising. Under the oversight of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, we operate Type I & II bingo games three times a week, generating half of the funds needed for our operations. The remainder comes from Type III bingo licenses, which allow us to sell instant bingo tickets outside traditional bingo games. This innovative approach enables us to prioritize clients and community needs.

However, recent changes in regulations have created challenges for charitable fundraising. We are requesting minor statutory updates to section 2915.093 to align practices with evolving rules. These updates, would not expand gaming and were developed in collaboration with the Attorney General's office, will allow us to continue providing critical services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse support, food pantry assistance, and school-based counseling.

Attorney General Dave Yost and Assistant Attorney General Dan Fausey have been instrumental in guiding and supporting us over the years, ensuring compliance and education for licensed charities. Today, I ask this committee to help us preserve our ability to fundraise effectively and sustain the vital services we've delivered for over 50 years. We are eager to collaborate with the General Assembly to craft updates to charitable fundraising statutes and continue serving our community for decades to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to present today, and I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.