NFIB

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May 20, 2025

Senator Nathan Manning
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Gaming
1 Capitol Square, Room 039
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Manning:

We are 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.

By way of background, our typical member employs 20 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 allow our members to grow, own, and operate their businesses.

As the Ohio General Assembly contemplates expanding gaming options in the state, we strongly encourage that the final legislative product considers 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 businesses, including but not limited to bowling alleys, bars, and restaurants, that have embraced the expanded 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. And that use of license or permit type is not used to significantly narrow the pool of eligible businesses.

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

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

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Ferruso
State Director

Cameron J. Garczyk
Assistant State Director