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 Interested Party Testimony
 Ohio State Senate Select Committee on Gaming
 February 24, 2021

Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Manning, and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party regarding sports gaming and e-bingo. Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO)'s mission is to build a network of support, through collaboration, education and research, for those impacted by gambling.

PGNO is unique as we take a neutral position regarding legalized gambling and engage with the spectrum of stakeholders (prevention, treatment, recovery, operators, and regulators) who makeup Ohio's gambling services system. As you consider the very important issues of sports gaming and e-bingo, we can provide resources and support, so you can make the most informed decisions regarding further gambling expansion.

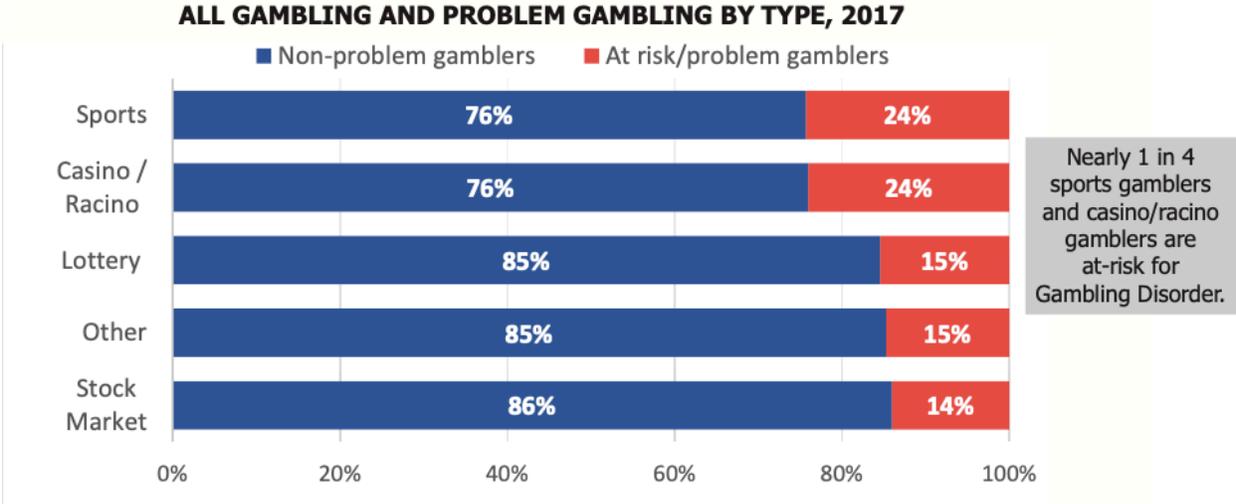
We know that as gambling opportunities increase, more Ohioans will gamble, more Ohioans will experience problems related to gambling, and more Ohioans will meet the diagnostic criteria for gambling disorders. As a point of reference, from the baseline surveyⁱ conducted before Ohio's casinos and racinos opened through 2017, the prevalence rate for both problematic gambling and disordered gambling approximately doubled.

Figure 1: Estimated prevalence of Ohio Adult Gambling 2012 vs 2017 from Highlights Ohio Gambling Survey 2017 conducted by Ohio for Responsible Gambling

Estimated Prevalence of Ohio Adult Gambling - 2012 vs. 2017						
	Non- Gambler	Non- Problem Gambler	Low Risk Gambler	Moderate Risk Gambler	Problem Gambler	Total
2017	25.1%	64.6%	6.4%	3.0%	0.9%	100%
	2.23M adults	5.8M adults	571,100	271,600	76,400	Total At-Risk 919,100
2012	41.4%	53.0%	4.2%	1.1%	0.4%	100%
	3.6M adults	4.6M adults	373,400	92,800	31,500	Total At-Risk 497,700

As you evaluate the impact of sports wagering and e-bingo, it is important to examine the highest prevalence for at-risk/problem gamblers. We know that nearly 1-in-4 Ohioans who wager on sports have experienced a gambling problem. A similar prevalence rate was found for those who play electronic gaming machines (slot machines at casinos and video lottery terminals at racinos).

Figure 2: Gambling and Problem Gambling by Type from Highlights Ohio Gambling Survey 2017 by Ohio for Responsible Gambling



*Graph represents 100% of all Ohio adults who gamble.

For previous versions of the sports wagering bills we have worked with sponsors to enhance consumer protections, which included: dedicated funds specific to problem gambling services, publicizing of the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline, and prohibiting wagering on sport or athletic events for certain populations. These measures are critical steps toward ensuring sound policy for this complex issue.

On behalf of the PGNO membership, thank you for taking the time for due diligence. We hope that this will be the first of many conversations regarding these important matters and look forward to serving as a resource to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party and I’m happy to answer any questions you have.

ⁱ Linley, J., Frohnafel-Hasson, S., Sherba, R. T. (n.d.). 2017 Highlights Ohio Gambling Survey 2017. Columbus, OH: Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.