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SB 176 Sponsor Testimony Senate Select Committee on Gaming May 12, 2021

Chair Schuring, Vice Chair Manning, and members of the Senate Select Committee on Gaming, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 176. I also want to thank Chairman Schuring and Senate President Huffman for their leadership on this issue. SB 176 would legalize and regulate sports gaming and charitable e-bingo. As Senator Manning addressed type A and type B licenses under the bill, I will be discussing the lottery component of sports betting, e-Bingo, and i-Lottery sections of the bill.

SB 176 enables the Ohio Lottery Commission to authorize sports betting for authorized lottery retail agents. It enables the lottery to offer a sports pool in a lottery pool format. There will be two sides - a winner and a loser - to choose from for each sporting event and the winning side splits the losing side's money. Each participant pays a fixed \$20 fixed price, with a fixed fee retained by the commission. Including Ohio's lottery retailers in sports betting is incredibly important as legalizing sports betting should primarily seek to help Ohio businesses. I believe very strongly that Ohio's lottery retailers must be included in sports gaming.

SB 176 also allows for electronic instant bingo, or e-Bingo, to be offered alongside traditional bingo. E-Bingo is a digital form of bingo, and it will be required to meet a series of requirements, including requiring the manufacturer to submit the system for approval to the Attorney General, the Ohio Casino Control Commission, and to an independent testing lab. The Ohio Attorney General will continue to maintain regulation authority over this area and the regulation of e-bingo will be similar to that of bingo. This bill allows e-Bingo to be offered by a veteran's or fraternal organization so long as it meets certain requirements. E-bingo and instant bingo will have their proceeds distributed in the same manner. This is a simple modernization of bingo that is long needed. This provision of the bill works to the benefit of Ohio's veterans and allows them to continue to grow and expand their system. We must continue to support our veterans and their charitable organizations in Ohio and this bill will do that.

Lastly, SB 176 creates a committee to take a deeper look into i-Lottery. I-Lottery has great potential to attract many younger players into the lottery system.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 176. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.