

Kenneth P. Buzzelli

Interested Party Testimony

Ohio State Senate Committee on Gambling

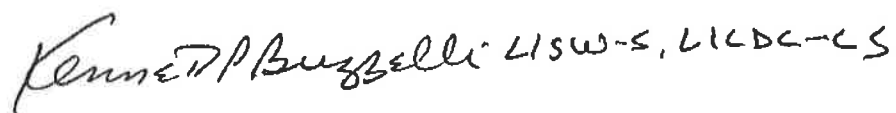
Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party regarding SB176.

I appreciate your time and dedication to these important issues and I would like to provide a local perspective as to how gambling has impacted Ohioans in my community. We know from the *Ohio Gambling Study*, and other research, that based on Ohio Gambling Surveys from 2012 to 2017, the percentage of adults at risk for problem gambling grew from 5.7% to 10.3% or roughly five hundred thousand adult Ohioans to just under one million.

As I look at the impact that gambling has had on my service area, I want to make sure that resources are available and protections are in place to lessen further harm. This is evident with the recent increase in our patient population treating those presenting with problems in gambling.

I, along with my fellow PGNO MEMBERS can provide you with subject matter experts regarding the impact of gambling. Based on my experience and expertise, I would expect protections for gambling to include age verification and dedicated funds for problem gambling services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party. I look forward to working with you further on these, and other, important issues impacting Ohioans.

 Kenneth P. Buzzelli LISW-S, LICDC-CS

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