



Bowling Centers Association of Ohio

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October 8, 2019

Finance Committee Members
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ohio House Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of the 170 members of the Bowling Centers Association of Ohio (BCAO), we respectfully urge you to **amend HB 194 to allow the Ohio Lottery to place Sports Betting Kiosks in Bowling Centers**. Many of the reasons revolve around a matter of fairness and a slight "leveling of the playing field":

1. Ohio's 200 Bowling Centers already offer KENO on machines that can be upgraded to allow for Sports Betting. It's a natural progression of lottery games that we already offer in a controlled environment in our Centers.
2. Ohio's small business Bowling Centers are desperately in need of a "boost" to their businesses as bowling centers continue to close in Ohio due to increase competition from casinos, racinos and fraternal clubs due to an uneven playing field when it relates to gambling opportunities.
3. Leaving "money on the table". Sports betting in Bowling Centers will generate much needed revenue for the Ohio Lottery and Ohio's education funding system. Millions of dollars will be realized by the State of Ohio for the net effect of sports betting in Bowling Centers (this includes additional sales and income tax increases). In fact, if you just allow this in racinos, casinos and fraternal clubs, the revenue projections to the Lottery are only \$20 million. However, if you add bowling centers and bars, your revenue increases by \$100 million. I'm pretty sure that you all could use an extra \$100 million for your new school funding formula, couldn't you?
4. Sports betting can help offset more threats to our business. Threats include:
 - iLottery: takes more customers out of our establishments (reducing state tax receipts).
 - HB 282: allows for electronic bingo in fraternal clubs only.
 - HB 194: allows sports betting in casinos, racinos and fraternal clubs which will further erode customers from our Bowling Centers and further exacerbate the un-level playing field when it comes to gaming issues.

We hope we can count on you to help increase revenue for Ohio's schools, increase Ohio's income and sales tax collections and add a much-needed boost to Ohio's Bowling Industry.

Please contact me with questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David P. Corey".

David P. Corey
BCAO Executive Vice President