



April 29th, 2024

Rep. Aisha Gomez, Chairman  
House Taxes Committee  
453 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Gomez and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the nine member tribes of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA), thank you for your consideration of HF2000, a bill to legalize sports wagering. Since the Murphy V. NCAA Supreme Court decision in 2018, MIGA tribes and their leaders have monitored the impact legal sports betting has had on existing gaming operations in other states, most importantly those operations run by tribal governments. The experiences and lessons learned elsewhere have helped MIGA tribes understand just how important the details and structure of legislation authorizing sports wagering are to existing gaming interests like tribal governments.

Were HF2000, as currently drafted, to become law, MIGA tribes believe the resulting mobile and retail markets operated by Minnesota's Tribal Nations would not only support tribes, but would also provide a well-regulated and accessible market for the state's sportsbettors and a competitive market that is important to our state's professional sports teams and market partners.

Gaming revenues produce the essential tax base tribes rely on to fund basic and essential government services for thousands of tribal members. Any time the state changes the gaming landscape, tribes must carefully consider whether such proposals strengthen or, in fact, threaten tribal sovereignty and self-determination. MIGA tribes look forward to continually monitoring the bill's progress and offering refinements to improve the language as it moves through the process.

MIGA, its members, and representatives again thank Rep. Stephenson, Chair Gomez and the full Taxes Committee for recognition that tribal gaming deserves to be protected and must be preserved. As the proposal moves through the legislature we look forward to working with you and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Platto", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Andy Platto  
Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Gaming Association



**Minnesota Alliance  
on Problem Gambling**

Testimony of Susan Sheridan Tucker  
Executive Director of Minnesota Alliance on Problem Gambling  
HR 2000 Lawful Sports Betting  
State House Taxes Committee  
April 30, 2024

Chair Gomez and Members of the Committee,

Good morning, I'm Susan Sheridan Tucker, Executive Director of Minnesota Alliance on Problem Gambling (MNAPG). I appreciate this opportunity to raise awareness to the cuts that have and will be made to the problem gambling program.

At the end of last year's session, changes were made to Statute 297 E.02 to reduce the tax rate charged to charitable gambling organizations. MNAPG is not disputing charitable gambling's desire for tax cuts, however, in doing so this resulted in a cut to current problem gambling funding. While it wasn't easy for us to find this information out, we finally received through the aid of Sen. Marty's legislative aide a note from SCRF that by FY27 we will receive a cut of 27% in our program. The figures presented to us were the following:

- FY24 \$136,000
- FY25 \$156,000
- FY26 \$161,000
- FY27 \$166,000

In the overall scheme, these amounts may seem miniscule, however, for our work which is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by problem gambling through advocacy, education, training and research, these cuts hurt and will have immediate impact on the services we've been able to offer. I need to remind you that up until these funds were made available to us in FY15, we operated on \$225,000 a year, which comes from the lottery budget and has not changed since 2004.

Did you know that 7x more people are impacted by SUD, yet funding is 389 times more than what is set aside for problem gambling. Additionally, 65% of gamblers have other addictions and mental health issues, yet we don't bother to screen for problem gambling.

Funding for problem gambling and gambling addiction is critical now and into the future. We are already experiencing increases in people seeking treatment and some of the providers have run

out of funds initially assigned to them in their DHS contracts. DHS is not responding quickly enough to supplement some of these providers' accounts so that they can continue to see clients. This cannot stand.

As policymakers debate who will benefit from the tax revenue generated by sports betting, I need you to understand that 250,000 Minnesota adults and 6,000 high school students are currently experiencing problem gambling. While we won't know the full impact of passing a sports betting bill in Minnesota, I know from the impacts in other states that we will likely see an increase in addiction and a demand for a wide variety of services. Please know there are no federal dollars available to us or anyone who works with problem gambling.

We are totally reliant on state dollars and frankly if the state is going to sanction an activity that is known to be addictive to some, it has the moral responsibility to help those that get felled by this addiction.

We need you and all policymakers to see this addiction and the impact it has on families, communities and the individual. Why is additional funding for problem gambling necessary? Minnesota has a lot of work to do and we need the resources to minimize the harms. Please do not cut our budget. We would ask that the distribution be raised from 1% (1/2 to DHS and 1/2 to MNAPG) to 2% to minimize the impacts to our services.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before the committee.

Respectfully,  
Susan Sheridan Tucker  
Executive Director

Cermak

April 30th, 2024

1:00 pm

Taxes

RE: Sport Betting H.F.2000

Taxes Committee Room 5

Rep.Brian Pfarr

Rectory of  
The Good Shepherd  
61 West 11th Str. St. Paul

The Medewakontawian  
Indians have presented me  
a paper, stating the use  
made by them of the money  
paid them last summer.

As far as I am able to judge  
the statements are correct,  
and show in the generality of  
cases that the money has been  
properly used. I see no reason  
why they should not receive  
payments equal to those of the  
Indians on Reservations

Wm. C. Pope, Rector Ch. of St. Stephen  
Nov. 27-1885 St Paul Minn

You can find ( Mdewakanton) thru the 1972 Federal Census Identification

Request

Inclusion of Federal Census Descendants Children, and Grandchildren

\* Free Indian Education,

\*Healthcare

\* Home free/ home loans

As of "2021" The enrollment regulations

Have not been approved by the Secretary Of The Interior and the Kaposia Band and the Mdewakanton Descendants have not received their payments from the 1837 Treaty Judgment Fund.

The State of Minnesota and Dakota

Must not and should not go forward.

On Sport Betting

Thanks

Maria Cermak



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Greetings, Madame Chair and members. My name is Dr. Kristy Janigo, and I am a third generation Army veteran. I am The American Legion Department of Minnesota Legislative Chair. And I'm an assistant county veteran service officer for my day job, where I help some of the state's most vulnerable veterans find housing, navigate their involvement with the justice system, and access life changing VA benefits compensation.

First, I want to thank Representative Stephenson and his co-authors for working on this bill and for giving veterans service organizations a voice in this process. We support HF 2000 because of the charitable gambling tax cuts offered and the change to lawful purpose expenditures under code 22 to allow our posts to complete crucial capital improvements for a limited time. Our more than 50,000 American Legion Department of Minnesota members agreed to prioritize advocating for these tax cuts above all other things we want for the service member, military family, and veteran community – because we think this will have the biggest impact. It's difficult for me to fully describe how much this means to us. There are 537 American Legion posts throughout Minnesota, and 193 of them have charitable gambling operations. We use the funds to carry out our four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Children & Youth, and Americanism.

I want to thank Representatives Swedzinski, Bjorn Olson, and Robbins for offering amendments to the tax omnibus bill last week in this committee, proposing to exempt our post homes from property taxes, modernize the disabled veterans homestead market value exclusion, and allowing us to use more of our gambling funds on critical building repairs. We have been asking for those changes for years. As those didn't pass, today I ask for your support on this bill. Vice Chair Norris and Representative Elkins, thank you for your partnership in your roles on the House Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy and carrying bills that will greatly benefit veterans. We are deeply grateful for all of your allyship. We do worry often that the general public does not understand our issues, so whenever we have someone coming alongside us with their support, it really matters.

This amendment includes a historic amount of tax cuts for charitable gambling, adding \$40 million more to the approximately \$15 million in tax cuts that passed last year with the tax omnibus bill. We say historic because we have never before seen this much in tax cuts. Our state taxes have been higher than the amount of money we've been able to deploy to help our communities, and we believe what you're doing with this bill will reverse that to the benefit of all Minnesotans. We also think the changes to allow us to use up to 50% of our net receipts for a limited time will help save some of our buildings that are in disrepair.

Although most of us stopped wearing the uniform years ago, veterans have a deep-seated need to continue serving their communities and last session's changes to e-pulltabs had our people worried that mission would be compromised. That is why you likely received many emails, phone calls, voicemails, texts, and saw a flood of social media messages almost exactly a year ago. I've spoken with many of you on this committee, both sides of the aisle, about the needs of the veterans community, and you've all been gracious listeners. Now I ask for your support for HF2000. The provisions for veterans service organizations will have immediate and lasting

**Contact:** Kristy Janigo, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Legislative Chair  
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positive impacts for us and will allow us to continue helping our communities. This is not a partisan issue.

As you have heard in the past, the funds we donate pay for honor guards at burial ceremonies, outdoor recreation for disabled veterans, suicide prevention programs, and stopgap funding for homeless veterans. We donate to area schools' programs to help housing and food insecure children. We support nonprofit human services organizations near our posts. We fund youth sports scholarships and equipment for local fire departments. We also fund local parades, fireworks displays, county fairs, fire equipment, school flags, marching band uniforms, football headsets, international sister-city efforts, and wheelchair-friendly playground equipment. What I am describing to you represents the best of America, and these traditions need to continue. Thank you again for hearing this bill today.

-Dr. Kristy Janigo

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristy Janigo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Legislative Chair

**Contact:** Kristy Janigo, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Legislative Chair  
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