

March 22, 2022

Dear Representative Bahner,

On behalf of the Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association (OMGHA), we are writing to express support of [HF4007 \(Bahner\) Charitable Gaming Rate Reductions](#). Through the great assistance of donations from our charitable gaming partners, OMGHA strives to provide a positive environment that promotes the development of hockey skills, good sportsmanship, competitive play and fun for all players. This past year, OMGHA had over 1100 registered players, all of whom are situated within the geographic area that you represent. Our players and their families are actively involved in our community and have come to expect a certain level of excellence, in hockey and in life, that OMGHA provides.

The donations received from our charitable gaming partners benefit the players and families of OMGHA, as well as the community as a whole. Donations are an integral part of helping OMGHA build and maintain a 1st class hockey program that the entire community can be proud of. Donations allow OMGHA to make hockey affordable for everyone; they allow us to provide meaningful financial assistance to families who cannot afford the cost of hockey, including providing equipment vouchers for new hockey players to get the gear they need. On this topic, OMGHA is leading the way in the Diversity and Inclusion space in the sport of hockey; recently forming a committee to explore ways to attract and retain children who may currently experience obstacles that may prohibit them from enjoying the sport of hockey. We have found that financial barriers are real and we believe that support from charitable gaming donations may help in this area. A reduction in the amount OMGHA receives from our charitable gaming partners would stifle our efforts in this area. To the contrary, an increase, by way of this Bill, would provide additional funds to make hockey available for all.

By way of our financial health, OMGHA provides a vehicle for community improvement and promotion of community businesses. OMGHA was recently awarded the opportunity to host a National USA Hockey tournament in the Spring of 2023. This tournament will bring over 30 teams and their families from all over the country to the Osseo / Maple Grove / Brooklyn Park area. These teams will provide commerce to hotels, restaurants and other establishments throughout the communities. The funds OMGHA receives from our charitable gaming partners will assist us in putting on a quality community event that will benefit many.

OMGHA supports HF4007. We rely on charitable gaming donations to support the kids and families in our association, as well as to support the communities around us. Any increase in donations realized by passage of HF4007 would be put to good use. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Kustermann, OMGHA Board of Director Secretary and Maple Grove Hockey parent

Colin Steen, OMGHA Board of Directors President and Maple Grove Hockey parent