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Legislative District 14
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Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 1066/House Bill 1291 - Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of
Sports Wagering Content - Required
House Ways & Means Committee
March 28th, 2024
1:00PM
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in support of **Senate Bill 1066 - Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content**.

Senate Bill 1066 passed the Senate unanimously and is in the same posture as the cross-file, House Bill 1291, heard by this committee on February 29th.

With the growth of sports wagering around the country, independent, unlicensed/unpartnered sporters wagering "experts" and "influencers" have been advertising to consumers on sporting event outcomes. These outcomes include parlays, potential money lines, spreads, totals, futures, and various other outcomes without any regulations.

Senate Bill 1066 is a consumer protection bill that will **require** a sports wagering licensee or sports wagering operator that advertises in the State to contract with a licensed independent evaluator to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee's sports wagering content, experts, influencers, and content partners.

This bill builds off legislation passed during the 2023 legislative session which authorized the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to identify and license independent evaluators to evaluate and rate sports wagering content.

Senate Bill 1066 will help protect consumers from deceptive marketing and advertising around sports wagering. For these reasons, **I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 1066**. Thank you for your kind consideration.