

## SB 1066/HB1291

Gaming - Sports Wagering – Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content – Required

*Requiring, rather than authorizing, certain sports wagering licensees and sports wagering operators that advertise in the State to contract with certain independent evaluators to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee's sports wagering content, sports wagering experts, sports wagering influencers, and content partners.*

### SUPPORT

My name is Craig Williams and I am writing to the committee in strong support of the passage of the independent evaluator bill. Currently, I serve as the Director for Crab Sports and I have actively been following this type of consumer protection legislation and regulation.

While there is still much work to be done relative to the treatment of addiction and other negative effects, this bill sets appropriate guardrails on the front end of the process. Protecting the consumer is not limited to treating an addiction, it should ensure sports betting markets are free of market manipulation and bad actors – no different than testing for “loaded” dice or rigged slot machines.

We view this type of legislation as a positive for the industry and so have other states, who are in process of following Maryland’s lead. Every week there are more news stories about the problems existing in advertising or content used as advertising. This is proper oversight into an area that needs it. From our perspective this is a necessity to ensure the market can grow responsibly.

We strongly urge passage of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Craig Williams*

Craig Williams  
Director

2/15/2024