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Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 708 - Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content
- Required
Budget & Taxation Committee
February 26th, 2025
2:00PM
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in support of **Senate Bill 708 - Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content**. Senate Bill 708 is a reintroduction of a bill that passed the Senate unanimously last year.

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 708 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. These independent evaluators would not only protect consumers but also help distinguish legitimate betting platforms from illegal ones, resulting in a reduction of illegal gaming activities in our state.

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 708 will help protect consumers from deceptive marketing and advertising around sports wagering. For these reasons, **I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 708**. Thank you for your kind consideration.