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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
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Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 621 – Sports Wagering – Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 8, 2023
1:00PM
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Good afternoon, Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in support of **Senate Bill 621 – Sports Wagering – Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content**.

With the growth of sports wagering around the country, independent, unlicensed/unpartnered sporters wagering “experts” and “influences” have been advertising to consumers regarding sporting event outcomes, including moneylines, against the spread, totals, futures, parlays, and other more without much or any regulations.

Senate Bill 621 is a consumer protection bill that will require the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to identify and license independent evaluators to evaluate and rate sports wagering content provided by experts, influences, and content partners – which are all defined in the bill – before being allowed to advertise by, or before, April 1, 2024.

These evaluators may be compensated by a sports wagering licensee or operator that uses their evaluations in marketing materials, but may not have the following:

- 1) a relationship with a licensee or operator;
- 2) have direct or indirect financial interest, ownership, or management of any sports wagering activities;
- 3) directly or indirectly receive proceeded of sports wagering activities; and,
- 4) have any revenue sharing relationships with a licensee or operator.

Senate Bill 621 will help protect consumers from deceptive marketing and advertising around sports wagering. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 621. Thank you for your kind consideration.