



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David K. Wilson, President**

House Bill 1291 (Delegate Attar)

Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content - Required
Ways and Means Committee

February 29, 2024

Favorable

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 1291. The summary of the Bill states the following: *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.*

Morgan strongly supports HB1291. While there is still much work to be done relative to the treatment of addiction and other negative effects of gaming, 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.

Based on the above observations, Morgan strongly support HB1291.

Respectfully Submitted,

David K. Wilson
President, Morgan State University