



March 22, 2022

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Kansans For Fair Play, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2740, AN ACT concerning gaming; relating to the Kansas expanded lottery act; Kansas lottery and Kansas racing and gaming commission, rules and regulations; authorizing sports wagering; creating the sports wagering receipts fund, the white collar crime fund, the privilege fee repayment fund and the facility manager licensee repayment fund; authorizing pari-mutuel licensees to operate historical horse race machines; amending KSA 46-2301, 74-8702, 74-8710, 74-8711, 74-8716, 74- 8718, 74-8733, 74-8734, 74-8751, 74-8752, 74-8757, 74-8760, 74- 8761, 74-8802, 74-8804, 74-8814, 74-8823, 74-8836 and 79-4806 and KSA 2021 Supp. 21-6403 and 21-6507 and repealing the existing sections.

Kansans For Fair Play is an organization of individuals and businesses in south-central Kansas organized to promote economic development opportunities in our region related to racing and gaming statutes post the passage and implementation of SB 66.

In 2007, voters in Sedgwick County rejected slots at the former Wichita Greyhound park by fewer than 500 votes. The ballot question was confusing, and news reports confirmed many voters did not understand what they were voting on. This confusion and the failed vote resulted in the loss of more than 500 jobs and a tremendous loss of revenue for the region, our local units of government, and the state.

One of the results of SB 66 was a considerable disparity in tax rates between state-owned and operated casinos and tracks on slot machine revenues. This inequity resulted in none of our race tracks operating slots and the subsequent loss of millions upon millions of dollars in lost revenue, jobs, and economic opportunity.

We believe HB 2740 is a fair approach and compromise to protecting the interests of the state, its state-owned casinos, and the constitutionally-created race tracks. After years of indecision by this body, HB 2740 reflects an effort to move forward toward resolving a conflict that has cost Kansas jobs and significant revenue.

With this in mind, we would urge the Committee to report HB 2740 favorable for passage.

Respectfully submitted by: Jason P. Watkins, Kansas for Fair Play President