

Testimony of Jeremy Wang
Temple University
House Gaming Oversight Committee
March 25, 2019

Statement of Support for HB 826 with proposed amendment

Good afternoon Chairman Marshall, Chairman Conklin and members of the House Gaming Oversight Committee. My name is Jeremy Wang and I am the Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement for Temple University. I am here today at your invitation to offer testimony on behalf of Temple as it relates to HB 826. On behalf of Temple University and its leadership, I'd like to offer a written statement in support for HB 826 with the proposed amendment.

At Temple University we have a proud tradition of supporting our student-athletes, because we consider these young men and women to be just that, students first and athletes second. Our student-athletes have achieved significant academic status among their peers in the NCAA. The NCAA established a rigorous metric by which they rate academic retention and success known as the Academic Progress Rate, or APR, which is a score based on individual and team academic achievement with the maximum score being 1,000. Temple is proud to acknowledge that its student-athletes have an APR score of 996, and 14 of the 17 teams have a perfect 1,000 APR score by the NCAA. Our student athletes have had 14 consecutive semesters or seven straight years of GPAs of 3.0 or higher, while enrolled in 85 different majors. The pursuit of academic excellence and achievement is always first at Temple University.

As a nonprofit institution, Temple University is always looking for ways to generate more revenue in order to support our tremendous student body. Temple's continued rise as an economic engine in Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is only matched by its commitment to developing and educating its growing student body. A subset of this student body are the student-athletes proudly representing Temple University in competition. Their collegiate education and experience are unique as they benefit from life lessons of sport in addition to a quality education in the classroom.

The adoption of HB 826 would provide the University with an opportunity for additional revenue in support of our student-athletes by placing revenue generated through 50/50 raffles into the Owl Club Annual Fund. This fund allows us to maintain the level of excellence previously described, while continuing to invest in programs that will enhance the student-athlete experience. By investing in enhanced services from increased academic and leadership training, to mental health and nutritional/food security programs; we are honoring our commitment to providing a peerless student-athlete experience, while developing future leaders of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the world. We estimate that 50/50 raffles at Temple sporting events could generate approximately \$150,000 in revenue for these types of programs.

Currently, the University holds a small games of chance license to raffle specific prizes. Passing this legislation would allow us to expand said license and allow us to utilize practices and processes in place which are utilized by pro teams in Philadelphia to generate revenue to support our student-athletes.

I thank you for this opportunity to appear before your Committee and I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.