



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: August 29th, 2023

RE: **Testimony on 2023 Senate Bill 54**

TO: The Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and
Military Affairs

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on what should be a simple and straightforward bill, Senate Bill 54 (SB 54).

Bingo at the local VFW hall or church has been a Wisconsin tradition for decades. Bingo provisions were first written into the law in 1973, and it was established that small cash payouts could occur starting in 1975. Earlier this year, I was approached by a member of a VFW in my district who brought it to my attention that cash payouts for bingo games are still not to exceed ten dollars – a limit first established in 1984. My constituent explained that to comply with this law requires a lot checks and a little hassle. My constituent asked that the limit be raised to twenty-five dollars – which he sees as a more reasonable amount. Given inflation, twenty-five dollars in 2023 is roughly equivalent to the value of ten dollars in 1984 – it's actually worth slightly less.

Changing this law to account for inflation over the last four decades makes sense. It reduces the burden on those operating small bingo games and on the Department of Administration, who is tasked with regulating these games. I hope that you'll join me in support of SB 54.