

February 23, 2015
Meeting of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Testimony for HB 2291
by Richard Carlson, Legislative Liaison for the Kansas Department of Revenue

Good morning Chairman Brunk and members of the committee, it is my pleasure this morning to present a short explanation of Kansas Department of Revenue's (KDOR) position as the required regulatory entity for the constitutional amendment concerning Raffles.

HB 2291 concerns both raffles and bingo as both are defined under the constitutional amendment as "Charitable Gaming". We are comfortable with the sub-committee's suggestion to define the bill "Charitable Raffles and Bingo act". We also agree and support exemptions of small church quilt or 4-H type organizations through a set dollar amount maximum they can sell before becoming regulated.

Much of the early discussion with the subcommittee concerned the simplicity of the legislation only addressing Raffles. We certainly understand simplicity is generally good in the legislative process and by having the two bills (yours which only concerns Raffles and KDORs combined bill of Raffles and Bingo) will give the committee a better understanding of the two subjects and make it easier to compare.

In the past and currently there are many very stringent rules and regulations concerning Bingo and the operation thereof and Patsy Congrove, KDOR, will later give testimony in much more detail. We believe many of the present Bingo operators will also include Raffles. We would like to simplify the Bingo rules and make the regulations very similar to Raffles.

Most of the charitable organizations engaging in the charitable games in the state will be small businesses who are ill equipped to deal with burdensome rules and regulations. Especially, if the regulations are totally different for the two games. Combining the two (Raffles and Bingo) make sense to us in terms of easing the burden of regulations.

It is our desire to prevent fraud and scams on our citizens of Kansas with adequate regulations and enforcement powers, but at the same time working with our non-profit organizations to minimize our oversight so they can operate and be of service to our communities providing funding for projects which many times can only be done with volunteer help and time.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

I will certainly be available for questions at the pleasure of the Chairman, and I would like to introduce at the appropriate time, Patsy Congrove, the KDOR representative who supervises our Charitable Gaming at KDOR and can certainly answer your question in more detail.