



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Thank you Chairman Brunk and Committee Members for an opportunity to share with you our thoughts about charitable gaming in Kansas. My name is Jeff Dunker and I represent American Legion Post 370 in Overland Park, Post 327 in Shawnee, Post 14 in Lawrence, Post 47 in Dodge City, Post 64 in Pittsburg, Post 68 in Hutchinson, and American Legion Auxiliary Post 62 located in Salina, KS.

We stand in strong support of the charitable gaming bill, HB 2291, that was introduced to this committee by the Department of Revenue. We started discussing charitable fund raising concerns with Patsy Congrove last year after the raffle bill passed the legislature. After Kansans voted for the constitutional amendment, we worked with Patsy to develop legislation that would be beneficial to charitable fund raising throughout the state.

We are thankful for the actions of this committee last year to approve the constitutional amendment. Now, we simply ask you to not strip the Department's update of bingo fundraising regulations from the bill as has been proposed in HB 2383. We have talked to small nonprofits and large nonprofits throughout the state. Many have compromised on their individual concerns to come up with a bill that is pleasing to all, and the result of that work product is HB 2291.

We ask that you pass HB 2291 favorably from this committee and that you defeat HB 2383. We also ask that you reconsider the threshold at which you allow the Department to start to regulate raffles. We believe a \$25,000 threshold is too high and will allow individuals to take advantage of the public by not following legitimate rules of a raffle. A raffle is a cash business. How would Kansans know that the money raised from a charitable raffle is actually going into the bank account of a nonprofit? How would the public know if the prize was actually given away, or if the winner was not a relative or friend of the person conducting the raffle? Also, we have concerns that the department will not raise enough funds to regulate if you start the regulation threshold at \$25,000 in sales. We believe a reasonable compromise would be regulation starting at \$10,000 in yearly sales.

Again, thank you for considering passage HB 2291. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.