



Kansas Charities Cooperative

"Uniting To Serve Kansas"

Address

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Topeka, KS

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Dorothy Haney
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Salina, KS

Chairman Brunk and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding charitable fundraising. I represent Kansas Charities Cooperative, a group of non-profits that already have a working relationship with the Department of Revenue as we conduct bingo games as one of our primary means of fundraising. After the raffle amendment passed, Patsy Congrove worked closely with our non-profits to develop a bill for the legislature to consider. We unanimously support the Department of Revenue's bill. We understand your concern regarding over-regulation of raffles, which is why we are open to an amendment to the bill regarding the prize amount at which you want the Department of Revenue to begin regulating raffles.

We ask that you pass HB 2291 favorably out of this committee, and further, we respectfully request that you defeat HB 2383, which ignores entirely the issue of charitable bingo. Charitable gaming is located in a single section of the Kansas Statutes Annotated. There is no reason not to modernize bingo regulations at the same time you authorize regulation of raffles and update these laws.

Our current bingo statutes have unreasonable restrictions that small businesses and non-profits should not have to operate under, especially since the State has authorized 24 hour lottery ticket sales and 24 hour casino gaming at state owned gaming facilities. HB 2291 repeals restrictions that a non-profit may only be allowed to offer two bingo games a week, may only play in one facility on three occasions in a week, and those occasions must have 44 hours in between each event. For those of you who are concerned that a bingo game could result in excessive gambling, we have kept the cap for a session of call bingo at the current \$1,200 payout.

There is absolutely no reason why this committee shouldn't fix the inequities that exist in current law at the same time they determine how they are going to regulate raffles. I'm curious why the committee would deny our request to update these laws when we have a regulator we have worked with for years, and both the Department of Revenue and an overwhelming number of non-profits throughout the state all agree that state over-regulation needs to be fixed.

Please look at the list of our Board of Directors on this page of testimony. They are diverse both in the type of non-profit they represent and in geographic location.

Gary Walker