

## Testimony to the Judiciary Committee

September 9, 2010

Chairman Griffin, Committee Members, guests and friends.

My name is Harvey Peterson. I am a resident of the good community of Beach where I serve as Commander of Harley Salzman American Legion Post #5, Gaming license G-68. We have one gaming site - our Legion Club - where we conduct once weekly Bingo, weekend 21 and 6 day-per-week pull tabs with one game. I am also a member of our Charitable Gaming Committee with responsibilities that include work at our Friday Bingo sessions, order supplies and maintain inventory, maintain accounts, overseeing our pull tab and 21 operations, perform audits, and review security tapes. Believe me, this is just a partial list of the my duties as we try to be in compliance with charitable gaming requirements.

I am not here to complain about the process because I understand why we have the process. I am here to speak in favor of the proposal we are discussing today. I will get to the point.

Ours is a small operation. In the past 4 quarters we had gross wagers from all sources of about \$750,00 (\$755,564), paid out prizes of almost \$600,000 (\$594,749), and had adjusted gross receipts of about \$150,000 (\$152,815).

In the same 4 quarters we paid \$27,156 in taxes and had \$38,288 available for our Charitable Trust. Under the proposed change the amount we would pay in taxes would be reduced by \$19,600.

This change would allow an additional \$15,281 to be placed into our Trust and \$4,319 be available for allowable expenses by the Post. The point here is that 78% of reduced taxes would be available for charitable purposes and 22% available for expenses. The big winner obviously would be the charitable uses for which gaming was established.

We urge your support of the proposed changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.