

House Regulatory Reform Committee Hearing – February 10, 2016

Prepared Statement in Support of Senate Bill 187 / House Bill 4293

My name is Mike Horvath; I am the Past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council # 10006 in Okemos, MI and am also a Board Member of the Michigan Charitable Gaming Association.

I want to thank you for allowing me to testify before you today and to ask you to support SB 187 which would bring much needed changes to charitable gaming in the State of Michigan.

Our Knights of Columbus Council relies on funds raised from charitable gaming, including millionaire parties, to provide support for All Faith Ministries for Disabilities, local food banks, Tri-County Office on Aging, Holy Cross Children's Services, Coats for Kids, American Heritage Girls, Pregnancy Services of Lansing, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Habitat for Humanity, youth college scholarships, St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Wheelchairs for Wounded Veterans, St. Martha Youth Group and many others.

In 2014 the Council raised \$12,000 through charitable gaming. In the past two years the Michigan Gaming Control Board's administrative rules have resulted in our Council losing the ability to generate at least \$ 7,000 in annual net revenues which could have been used to donate more to anyone of the above noted organizations. These rules also jeopardize the future of Council 10006's ability to raise funds, by 33 to 50%, for charitable organizations that directly benefit the Lansing/ Okemos, MI area. We believe that unless some much needed legislative changes are made, that millionaire parties will no longer be a fundraising option due to restrictive and onerous rules.

Once again, we would ask for your support of Senate Bill 187 to help counteract the impact of recent administrative rules and to ensure the longevity of charitable gaming in Michigan. Charitable gaming with the right legislation provides Council # 10006 with the ability to help those that are not able to help themselves. What better reason to remove the onerous Michigan Gaming Control Board's regulations.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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