

Testimony Against HB17 Internet Gaming -Authorization and Implementation

Before The Ways and Means Committee
of The Maryland House of Delegates
Monday, February 10, 2025

Submitted by
Kristina Cazeau, Food and Beverage Server at the Ocean Downs Casino

Hello. My name is Kristina Cazeau. I am a pre-med student at the University of Maryland Salisbury majoring in Bio-Med. I also work as a food and beverage server at the Ocean Downs Casino in Berlin, Maryland.

Thank you, Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee for this opportunity to address you today.

Lots of students at UM Salisbury look to Ocean City to make money while they are in school. I, for one, must completely support myself and pay for tuition and books to pursue my studies.

In spring of 2023, my friend and College roommate, Alex, started to look for summer jobs. We found jobs as servers in the Club House at the Ocean Downs Casino, which is busy during the summer months because of live horse racing. This was a much better summer job than the other hospitality jobs in the area. We made \$15.00 an hour plus tips. Which for a Salisbury student equaled “making bank”.

Then at the end of the summer season we were able to get work as servers in the Casino Restaurant, Poseidon’s. This is a huge advantage to me as a self-supporting student. Most of the hospitality jobs in the area are only for the summer. Right now, I work part time so that I have time for my studies. When classes are over, I will pick up more hours.

I work with great people. The vast majority of my co-workers are not students. I work with single Moms, retirees, hard working parents, and career hospitality workers.

As a tipped worker most of my income comes from tips. And I share my tips with the other staff members who help me deliver excellent service. These are

the server assistants or bussers, and the bartenders who make the drinks that I serve.

We are in the business of customer service. This is why my co-workers, and I are completely against any and all legislation and that would legalize iGaming in Maryland. I don't understand why the legislature would do something that will reduce the number of customers at the Casinos, which will in turn cut our earnings and reduce job opportunities. We need these jobs.

Please give HB17 an unfavorable reading.