

**Testimony Against
HB0017 Internet Gaming -Authorization and Implementation**

Before The Ways and Means Committee
of The Maryland House of Delegates

Monday, February 10, 2025

Submitted by

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Good afternoon. My name is Amanda Ciarmoli. I am a beverage server at the Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore, Maryland where I have worked for 11 years. Thank you, Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the committee for this opportunity to express opposition to legalizing iGaming in Maryland.

I am a proud member of UNITE HERE Local 7. Today I am speaking for all of the employees at our casino—union and non-union to say that we are opposed to HB17 and any other legislation that would advance iGaming in the State of Maryland.

I have had firsthand experience with what happens in the Casino when iGambling is allowed. I was working at the Horseshoe when sports betting was legalized in the Casinos. From the beginning, we had a ton of traffic to our sports book. This brought in many customers who in addition to placing a sports bet would buy food and drinks and tip the staff. But when the phone apps became available for sports betting in Maryland, that crowd quickly disappeared.

I believe we'd suffer a similar drop in guests at the casino if slots and table games were available on people's phones. That will hurt a lot of families including mine.

Thanks to this job, I am able to provide for my family as a single mother and keep a roof over our head. This job has allowed me to give my daughter a childhood I never got to experience growing up so that we aren't only surviving but thriving.

I grew up with a single mother also and never thought I'd be able to live a full life because of the hardships we endured. There were times I didn't know where my next meal was coming from, but luckily my daughter has never had to experience that type of struggle.

Thanks to my career in a Maryland Casino, I have been able to give my daughter everything I didn't have and more-- like a stable home, a back yard, pets, vacations and the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities such as gymnastics, which I think everyone knows is not cheap! My daughter is very heavily involved in gymnastics and will be attending state meets in the next couple months! If it weren't for this job I would not be able to help her fulfill her dreams like every mother wishes to do for their little ones.

I hope this gives you some insight into how important it is to keep gaming in the casinos and off our phones so we make sure the casinos are full of patrons from all over so that we all can continue to thrive.

Please give HB17 and unfavorable reading. Thank you for your time.