

**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

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Hello. My name is Dominique Taylor.

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

My father was a military man. He retired in 2005. That's when my family moved from Virginia Beach to Salisbury. I graduated from Wicomico High School and have lived and worked in Maryland for all of my adult life.

I traveled here this morning from my home in Salisbury, Maryland. I came with some of my co-workers from the Ocean Downs Casino. I work in the Environmental Services Department. We are responsible for keeping the Casino clean and orderly. With all the customers coming and going it takes three shifts of cleaners, 24 hours every day, 365 days a year to maintain the high standards at the Casino. We clean the public areas, bathrooms, restaurants, kitchens, outside entrances, smoking areas, offices, back of the house, breakrooms, locker rooms, hallways.

I was glad when I got hired at the Casino because so much of the work in our area is part-time and seasonal. At the Casino I get 40 hours of pay every week, year-round. I have worked in the hospitality industry before. The work is hourly paid, and we would get our hours

cut all the time. This makes it very hard to maintain your life and cover basic expenses like housing, utilities, food, phone services.

I live with my mom and dad and help them cover their expenses. It has gotten more expensive in our area and we all contribute to keep the household going. All of us benefit from my job at the Casino.

I work with a great group of people. Some are like me, living with their folks, others are retirees, single Moms, students or young families. We all really need our jobs. Some people travel from Pocomoke City and Princess Anne or even farther away to work at the Casino. We have to travel this distance to get a decent job.

Environmental Services is where a lot of employees start out. Once you are working at the Casino, you can move into other jobs. Under our Union contract the Casino has to offer promotions from within before hiring from outside the Casino. I hope to take advantage of this opportunity and move into other positions at the Casino.

So I hope you can see why Casino workers are really worried about what we will do if iGaming is legalized. iGaming will definitely take customers away from the Casino. I hope you can see what a huge blow this will be to us and our families, if you destroy some of the best jobs in our area. This is our lives and we really need you to hear us.

Please give an unfavorable reading the House Bill 17.

Thank you.