

**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
Lori Spicer, Poker Clerk at Horseshoe Casino, Baltimore

Hi, my name is Lori Spicer. I've been a clerk in the poker room at the Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore for almost a year. Working at the casino was my first job coming back to work after being out for several years recovering from a serious health issue and major surgery. I had done a variety of office work before but because of the encouragement of an acquaintance who is an instructor for table games dealers, I decided to look into this line of work.

In general, it seems like hospitality work is a fall back or safety net for a lot of people who encounter disruptions to their normally chartered path in life. That's what it was for me. I couldn't go back to the job I had, but it turns out I like working in this environment better anyway. I really enjoy the highly social work environment and getting to meet and interact with so many different people.

I'm opposed to the industry's move towards igaming because it will undercut the business model that supports so many of us. With union jobs at Caesars, we get competitive pay and benefits. Part of my pay is tied to my tips, which is tied to my efforts. The more I put into my efforts, the more I can earn. When players come to the casino, they're contributing to that income for the table games dealers, the slot attendants and techs, the EVS attendants, the beverage servers and bartenders, and so many other people. We have already seen a decline in patronage with apps in sports betting. If the option to gamble at home was allowed with igaming, I'm concerned it would have an even greater negative impact on revenue at the property and that this would have a detrimental impact on jobs.

The other benefit of onsite gaming is that it's social. I've already mentioned how this has been a good thing in my life and I also think it's important to the players as well. People make friendships, there's community and that's a social good that is undercut by people gambling on their phones, by themselves.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my perspective with you. I ask that you please give HB 340 an unfavorable reading.

