



FRIENDS OF JENNIFER CLANCY
for Maryland State Delegate 29A
Education. Health Care. Community.

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Testimony on HB0610

**St. Mary's County - Gaming by Qualified Organization - License Required
Ways and Means**

Position: Favorable

As a constituent of St. Mary's County, MD, licensed clinical professional counselor and Board approved supervisor of mental health professionals in the State of Maryland, I strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB 0610 to ensure regulations requiring a qualified organization to hold a gaming license whenever the qualified organization conducts certain gaming in St. Mary's County; authorizing the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Board to designate a person to administer the issuance of gaming licenses in the county; and generally relating to gaming in St. Mary's County. Responsible promotion of gambling requires the due diligence of county officials to ensure the mental wellbeing of participants, which regulatory oversight provides. Balancing provision of entertainment with financial gain against potential co-morbidity of anxiety, depression, substance use disorders, financial strain, etc. is of immense importance. Regulations such as HB0610 provide the first step towards responsible gaming in St. Mary's County, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Clancy, Candidate for Maryland State Delegate 29A