



February 19, 2026

House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 717 – Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With  
Professional Baseball and Football Teams

Dear Chair Wilkins:

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center) opposes *HB 717 – Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams*. This bill allows an unlimited number of raffles to be conducted by an organization that, among other things, is affiliated with a professional National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City. Raffles involve consideration (payment), chance (drawing), and a prize, thus meeting the definition of gambling. The Center does not support expansion of any form of gambling in Maryland. If you would like more information, please contact Heather Eshleman at [heshleman@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:heshleman@som.umaryland.edu) or (667) 214-2120.

Sincerely,

Heather Eshleman, MPH

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