

Susan C. Stokes
719 Baylor Road
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

January 8, 2020

The Honorable Senator Nancy J. King
Miller Senate Office Building
3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 59

Dear Senator King:

My name is Susan Stokes and I reside at 719 Baylor Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland. I am a member of Severna Park Elks' Lodge #2482 and currently serve as the Chaplain.

I am writing to ask that you and the Committee help our lodge and all other fraternal organizations in the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Harford, Frederick, Carroll, Allegany, Calvert, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Garrett, St. Mary's, Charles and Baltimore City to be better financially equipped to reach out to our communities in a broader sense by passing Senate Bill 59. The monies received through the Instant Lottery Machines would allow the lodges to increase their benevolent spending. In the Severna Park Lodge this year we have donated 150 food baskets to identified needy families in our area, provided personal \$1000 scholarships to 2 students from the greater Anne Arundel county area, paid for 27 children, identified as in need, to attend the Elks' Camp Barrett summer camp, donated money to Falcons Booster Club, Old Mill Youth Association, Eagle Scout Troop #454, given substantial donations to the National Multiple Scleroses Society, Neuroendocrine Research, Helping Out Mission, Help Hope Live, Partners In Care, Wreaths Across America donated 81 fully supplied backpacks to Marley Elementary School, donated \$2500 worth of school supplies directly to teachers to resupply classrooms in the middle of the school year, purchased specific supplies for Ruth Eason School (tactile equipment, wipes, books and non-latex gloves), provided care packages for the residents of the Veterans Nursing Home at Loch Raven and donated 4 bins of toys and \$500 to Toys for Tots as well as providing Christmas gifts for 50 children on our Angel Tree.

The above is just as example of the benevolent giving from one Elk's Lodge since April 2019. In total there are 23 Elks' Lodges that would be positively impacted by the passage of Senate Bill 59. This number does not include the many other fraternal organizations included in the bill's language.

Recently the Deale Elks' Lodge submitted a Bond Initiative to the Anne Arundel County Delegation for monies to help improve their lodge building. They have requested a grant, not hard or soft funding. With money from this bill, that lodge could use money

from its operating budget for that expense and money from the lottery machines could be used for benevolent purposes. It would also free up bond money to benefit others in need of funds.

I personally see the passage of Senate Bill 59 as a triple win. Certainly for our Maryland veterans in the form of funds to be used by the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization, for the fraternal organizations effected and for the greater Maryland community receiving funding and other help from the organizations by its passing.

Thank you for your time and consideration to help Senate Bill 59 get out of Committee.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Stokes