

January 6, 2021

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill No. 371 Instant Ticket Lottery Machines for Fraternal Organizations Bill a.k.a. "Slots"
for Homeless Veterans Act

Dear Delegate Kaiser:

My name is Francis James Kane and I am a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 2283 located in Laurel, Maryland.

I support House Bill No. 371 for Instant Ticket Lottery Machines for Fraternal Organizations Bill. This bill would allow Elks Lodges all across the State of Maryland to continue and grow the charitable works that the organization is currently doing. Charitable works like locating homes for homeless veterans, providing summer camps for children less fortunate, working with wounded warriors and supporting our first responders. These are just a few of the things we do as Elks.

On several occasions as an Elk Member I visited the Veterans' Hospital in Baltimore. Working with the Veterans' Community we brought books, toiletries, snacks, cards, gloves, CDs, DVDs, games, lap blankets and other requested items to the veterans that are in the Baltimore Veteran's Hospital. The members of my Lodge in Laurel, MD, have collected and secured furniture, small appliances and household goods and made numerous trips in our personal and rented trucks to bring items to Maryland Veterans securing apartments as they are climbing out of homelessness. Also, several members of my Lodge and I worked to secure a grant from our Grand Lodge (our National Association) to be able to give children in a local elementary school backpacks with food after learning that these children live below the poverty level and while on school breaks (winter, spring and summer) and away from the meal program may not receive nutrition or proper nutrition. The above campaigns that I have been a part of have been rewarding personally and for me as part of the larger Brotherhood of the Paternal Order of Elks.

Please prepare a 2020/2021 version of the Instant Ticket Lottery Machines for Fraternal Organizations Bill and present it to the Budget and Taxation Committee. Fraternal organizations like the Elks, need this bill more than ever.

Sincerely,

Francis James Kane
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Laurel, MD 20724
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