

**Testimony Against**  
**SB340 Internet Gaming – Authorization and Implementation**  
**Before the Maryland Senate Committee on Taxation and Budget**  
**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**  
**Submitted by**  
**Colin Zimmerman Cage Cashier at Ocean Downs Casino**

Thank you Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the committee for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB340 Internet Gaming—Authorization and Implementation.

My name is Colin Zimmerman. I am originally from Arizona where I did political work. One of my campaigns was working with the Tribes to make Casino gambling legal on the reservations. Much like Maryland there was a referendum which passed because money from the Casinos was earmarked for the education budget and the Casinos would create thousands of jobs. That is exactly what happened in Arizona and that is exactly what has happened in Maryland.

I moved with my family to Wicomico County Maryland in 2012. In 2019 I started working at the Ocean Downs Casino as a Cage Cashier. After the COVID 19 shut down I was furloughed and worked elsewhere. I returned to the Casino as a Slot Attendant in September of 2023 then moved back into the Cage Cashier job.

In a casino the “Cage” is where all the money goes in and out. We process customer winnings, the purchase of chips, cash for all registers in the building, income from the various games, and the processing of jackpots and sweepstakes.

We are paid as “tipped employees”. So, our base hourly rate of pay is below \$15.00 a hour. We depend on the generosity and grace of the customers for 70% of our income. Without tips from the customers, I would earn only \$24,000.00 a year.

The same is true for Slot Attendants. These are the men and women who assist players at the slot machines when they hit a jack pot. When I worked in this classification, 50% to 60% of my income was from customer tips.

I am a member of UNITE HERE Local 7. Thanks to my job I can provide for my family which includes my college age daughter, my wife and 4 cats. Also because of my job I am currently selling my Condo and buying a bigger home. Both are in Maryland.

Because of my job I spend money at local Wicomico County restaurants. We shop at local food and retail stores. I am a steady taxpayer in the county and the state.

Every state that has passed iGaming has experienced a reduction in customers going to the Brick and Mortar Casinos. Customer traffic is what makes our jobs in Maryland Casinos possible. Bartenders depend on customers, food servers depend on customers, cocktail servers depend on customers, table games dealers depend on customers, and as I testified, Cage Cashiers and Slot Attendants depend on customer tips.

Legalizing Casinos in the State is doing what the voters wanted it to do---put money into education and create good jobs. Let's not undo the good work that has been done by destroying Casino businesses with iGaming.

We live a State where Democrats are in control of the Senate, the House of Delegates and the Governor's Mansion. This is the party that is supposed to stand up for workers like me and my coworkers. Please say no to iGaming. Give SB340 an unfavorable reading.

Thank you.