

March 3, 2025

Senate Bill 541

Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe

I am here today to represent the nearly 20K Elks that make up the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association.

Elks across the State of Maryland have helped shaped communities by donating hours helping those less fortunate, volunteering at veteran's hospitals, supporting first responders and mentoring our youth to be their best. This year I am pleased to say at the end of 2024, we have given back \$10.4 million dollars to our communities. Everyone always says we should strive to do better and I can stand before this committee and say as Elks we are committed to our communities and that means doing everything in our power to make our communities better.

Senate Bill 541 will allow Elks Lodges and other fraternal organizations on the Western shore to continue to provide to their community through Instant Ticket Lottery Machines (ITLM) located in our lodges and facilities. These machines will also give the state funds to support Educational programs that are important to organizations like the Elks.

Supporting Senate Bill 541 will allow Lodges on the Western Shore of Maryland to continue the work they are already doing. It will only increase the charity that is currently being spread throughout communities in Maryland. Charity which comes in the form of helping a child with a disability gain access to a much needed ramp, providing iPads to Green Street Veterans Hospital or simply saying thank you to our first responders over a home cooked meal. I and the 20K Elks I represent would appreciate your support and a favorable vote.