



MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB



January 28, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbearry
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

House Bill 337, sponsored by Delegates Lehman, Bartlett, Guzzone, Peña-Melnyk, Taveras, and Terrasa, proposes a vital amendment to the distribution of the State Lottery Fund. This bill allocates a portion of proceeds from a designated lottery game to provide supplemental local impact aid to Anne Arundel County, Howard County, and the City of Laurel. These funds will not only support essential community projects but also significantly bolster the benevolence efforts undertaken by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Jockey Club, benefiting thousands of hardworking horsemen who form the backbone of our industry.

Our industry's comprehensive benevolence program plays a critical role in ensuring the well-being of the individuals and families who comprise Maryland's Thoroughbred racing community. This program includes primary health care services through our renowned Horsemen's Health System in partnership with MedStar Health; free dental care provided via a collaboration with Silver Spring's Mobile Dentist; free prescription service to assist horsemen with medication access; free pension programs to secure financial stability for retirees; free workforce housing to support those working tirelessly in our industry; educational and advancement opportunities and many additional services designed to uplift and sustain our dedicated community members.

As our industry navigates challenges, including reduced racing dates, supplemental funds made available through House Bill 337 would provide crucial stability and resources. These funds would help sustain the programs that directly enhance the lives of those who contribute to Maryland's rich racing tradition, ensuring the continued success of this vibrant industry.

Moreover, House Bill 337 represents a meaningful investment in our local communities, fostering economic growth while directly benefiting individuals in Anne Arundel County, Howard County, and the City of Laurel. By leveraging proceeds from the State Lottery Fund, the bill creates a sustainable funding mechanism for community development without placing additional burdens on taxpayers.

Our organizations respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 337 a favorable report. This legislation will deliver a lasting and positive impact, both for the Maryland Thoroughbred horsemen and the broader communities served by these supplemental local impact funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions or provide further information to support its passage.

Katharine M. Voss
President, MTHA

Bill Knauf
President, MJC

Kent Murray
President, MHBA