

Long Shot's

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Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for your time.

My name is Alyse Cohen, and I am the owner of Long Shot's OTB and Sportsbook in Frederick, Maryland. I am here today in an effort to save my business.

It is well known that OTBs across our state—including Long Shot's—are down nearly 40% over the past several years. We are on the brink of collapse. Yet, we do not want to shutter. We want to continue to operate—and more importantly, to thrive.

Historical Horse Racing, or HHR, is the best proven solution to preserving not only the OTB framework, but also Maryland's horse racing industry—just as it has done in eight other states. In fact, Churchill Downs, Live! and many others have publicly touted the success of HHR in strengthening racing markets and generating critical revenue to sustain the industry.

I grew up on a farm in Frederick County. My family has been part of Maryland horse racing for three generations. Some of my earliest memories are of going to our local OTB, the Cracked Claw, enjoying chocolate sundaes, and watching our horses run.

Horse racing is not just what we do- it is who we are.

We do not want Maryland to lose an essential part of its agricultural identity due to a lack of innovation.

OTBs want to be part of the solution. Historic Horse Racing has the potential—with 5,000 machines across the state—to generate up to \$100 million in new state tax revenue annually. The adoption of HHR would help address shortfalls in horse racing purses, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, declining lottery revenues, and other critical initiatives—without raising taxes and without asking the state for one additional dollar.

We want to save our businesses and contribute meaningfully to our great state at the same time.

My fellow OTB owners and gaming experts will speak to the revenue currently lost to neighboring states, the minimal risk of cannibalization to casino slot revenues, and the many other merits of this bill. But, I am here simply as a long-time horseman and OTB owner asking the committee to help save my business.

Thank you for your consideration.