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Proudly Serving Charitable Gambling Organizations Throughout Minnesota

An Open Letter to Legislative Candidates

Support Charitable Gambling - A Community Resource!

Charitable gambling in Minnesota is in crisis! We are hurting and we need your help at the state Capitol.

Charitable gambling sales are at their lowest point in a decade and last year charitable contributions were at an all time low. In fact, charitable contributions have dropped 57% from a high of over \$101.2 million to \$43.3 million last year.

All this bad news at a time when licensed non-profit charitable gambling organizations are receiving more local requests for donations than ever before. The local needs are great, but unfortunately charitable gambling efforts have not been able to keep up with the needs of our local communities. In fact, we have been losing ground to the point where many charities have terminated their charitable gambling licenses.

This critical community resource is slowly disappearing.

We need your help to reinvigorate and modernize our current games (pull-tabs, bingo, paddlewheels, raffles, & tipboards) within the existing charitable gambling structure to allow us to regain a strong foothold in our communities. We also need a less onerous charitable gambling tax system. ***By updating our current games and utilizing 21st century technology we can bring about much needed charitable gambling tax reform and relief that is revenue neutral for the State of Minnesota.*** This would allow us to keep more funds in local communities throughout Minnesota to support veteran programs, youth activities, food shelves, and other programs too numerous to mention.

In any case, Allied Charities of Minnesota does not support the elimination or replacement of paper pull-tabs or paper bingo with electronic gaming devices at our licensed sites. We also do not support racinos, state owned/operated casinos, or video lottery terminals run by the Minnesota State Lottery, all of which would adversely affect charitable gambling in Minnesota.

Charitable gambling interests need to be at the table during any serious discussions at the state Capitol about additional gaming in Minnesota.

Allied Charities of Minnesota encourages you to seek out your local charitable gambling organizations and talk with them about our plight. Hear first hand from them what is happening in your communities.

Respectfully,

King Wilson

King Wilson

Executive Director

Allied Charities of Minnesota

(Please find attached our CY 2009 ACM Charitable Gambling Fact Sheet for additional reference)