

February 11, 2013

Senator Jacob LaTurner
District 13
Room: 135-E, Seat: 12
Topeka, KS

RE: SB 148 Raffle Bill
Hearing on Thursday, February 14th, 2013
Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Senator LaTurner:

As concerns the above bill, we would like to share our thoughts on this subject.

My wife, Terri, and I started an effort last year (with the help of four other friends) to raise charitable funds to be used as scholarships for Girard High School Seniors. We had wanted to do something in the memory of our daughter, Melisa, who was murdered in 2001. We had never been able to focus upon a cause until we learned that our local high school was in need of additional scholarships. Melisa was a 1995 graduate of Girard High School.

We sponsored a motorcycle poker ride whereby participants pay a fee and then draw a card at five different geographical locations. The rider with the best poker hand is awarded a top prize and on down with as many prizes as there are to award. To our surprise our first attempt was successful and many riders expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the ride.

Last year was our first event and it was our hope to sponsor one \$500 scholarship. With the initial success of the event, we are sponsoring two \$500 scholarships this year. It is our hope to sponsor more scholarships each year than the previous year. Our new goal is to be able to sponsor four students each year. We work with the scholarship committee to identify those students who achieved academic excellence but who have not been the recipient of sufficient base aid for their additional educational endeavor.

The vast majority of us here today have personally participated in a charitable event in our local community. We donate freely to these efforts as the beneficiaries are our friends and neighbors who have found themselves in a time of need. Or perhaps it is a local group funding activities that enrich the fabric of our community. These opportunities present themselves to us multiple times every year and we cheerfully share of the blessings we have experienced, so others may also be blessed.

I do not believe, in principal, these local events are gambling. Does someone usually receive a gift, yes. But the vast majority do not contribute because of the chance of receiving a gift. They contribute because they believe in the outcome of helping someone or to fund local activities. The foundation principal here is not about receiving – it is about giving.

With your favorable consideration of this bill, Kansas citizens will be able to legally continue the local traditions of helping others through community support organizations. Kansas citizens desire to continue these local charitable events without being in violation of existing Kansas laws.

Cordially,

Maurice A. Harley and Terri R. Harley
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