Gretchen/Sam,

Our Rotary Club (Williamston Sunrise) participates in Charity Poker at Trippers in East Lansing. We use the profits to fund donations to local and international projects. Without that our fundraising would decrease by nearly half. Don't let the casinos force a change in the Gaming Control board that will effectively eliminate Charity Poker (millionaire parties).

Below are some of the problems the changes will cause:

Thanks, Gene

1. R432.302(3) The executive director shall not authorize more than 30 days of millionaire party events to occur at a location in a calendar year.

Without fixed locations, everything else fails for the following reasons:

 a. Skilled Staff – dealers and game managers will no longer have a job they can depend on and go to each day and they will find other gainful employment.

 b. Marketing – if the game isn’t at the same place each day then advertising will be important. Currently the advertising is minimal and paid for by the room operator. Under

 this new scenario the game see fewer and fewer faces, and the cost to get those faces through the door will increase dramatically.

 c. Secure work stations and equipment, in may instances, will be all but non-existent. Charities will find themselves sitting at banquet tables with their money and chips in

 unsecured areas for everyone to see. The vulnerability of this situation is unacceptable.

 d. Players, the key to everything, will stop coming. Right now they go to the place they know, are comfortable at, and are confident there is a game to be played.

2. R432.310 (10) … only bona fide members of the qualified organization… may perform the following: (g) Monitoring the games and verifying all games have been conducted in conformance with the rules of the game;

 a. Charities will be required to run the games, make game-related rulings, and settle game-related disputes. The book of rules for Texas Hold’em is 30+ pages long. This is a skill set that is available to very few organizations.

 b. Most players will not participate in a game that isn’t well run and that has consistent rules that they know.

3. Rule 432.310 (6) At least five bona fide members of the qualified organization shall staff the millionaire party at all times; this does not include bona fide members of the qualified organization who are dealers. One of those five members shall be the millionaire party chairperson.

 a. These events are so popular today because they are easy! Charities of all sizes can participate. Requiring each group to staff the event with 5 members will make this difficult for some, and impossible for many.

4. R432.311 The executive director shall set the permissible hours during which millionaire parties may be conducted. A millionaire party shall not begin before 8 a.m. or continue after midnight.

 a. I know everyone would like to be home in bed at midnight. But a significant portion of profits are earned in the late evenings. Players don’t come in for an hour of poker, they come in for a session of poker that may last 4-5 hours. These are the players that come regularly and make these events profitable. Closing at midnight means shutting down the games at 11:15. Players that want to make a night of it will go to the casino. They won’t even stop in to the charity poker room. This means fewer hours to profit, as well as fewer players participating because some of those that currently arrive at 7 and plan to stay until 2, will go to the casino instead.

5. R432.302 (2) The executive director shall not authorize more than one millionaire party event to occur at any location per day.

A limit of one charity per day per location will result in fewer opportunities for charities to participate, reduced revenue for those that do participate, and a greater challenge for Director Kalm to oversee.

Rooms that currently rent space to multiple charities are more profitable for charities because they build a larger and more diverse clientele. Players choose to play in rooms where more games are operated, giving them a selection.

A limit to 1 charity may result in an increase in the number of competing events taking place at different locations at the same time.

Rooms with multiple charities have economies of scale – the expenses don’t double when the number of charities double.