

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to express my deep concerns over the future of charitable gaming in Michigan.

Many charities in our community rely on small local poker events as a way of raising funds to support their work. <<Specific examples of the good that's been done as a result>>.

Unfortunately, the Michigan Gaming Control Board has caved under pressure from a coordinated, casino-led effort to eliminate these neighborhood poker events. The agency has introduced rules that will prevent charities from accessing the funds they so urgently need. <<Highlight local impact>>.

What's more, the new rules will force local poker venues all across Michigan to close down. The Gaming Control Board will have demolished local businesses, thrown hundreds of employees out of work, and eliminated the nonprofit services that keep our communities vibrant.

Michigan's unemployment rate is the 4th highest in the nation. Government services are being cut year after year, thanks to ongoing budget pressures. Why, then, would our state leaders act to destroy this self-sufficient, cottage industry that is doing so much good?

Now is not the time to decimate one of the few thriving industries in our state. I urge our policymakers to protect charity gaming from the senseless whims of state regulators.

Sincerely,

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the owner of [venue] in [community]. My business works with [number] charities to raise [\$\$\$] in revenue to help serve the needs of residents throughout our community.

My business supplies charities with everything they need to host small, local poker events. Most charities don't have the means to manage these types of activities themselves, and my safe, familiar, and responsibly-managed venue allows them to raise money in a way that makes sense.

Because of what I do, charities here are doing some amazing things. <<Specific examples of the good that's been done as a result>>.

Unfortunately, the Michigan Gaming Control Board has caved under pressure from a coordinated, casino-led effort to eliminate these neighborhood poker events. The agency has introduced rules that will prevent charities from accessing the funds they so urgently need. <<Highlight local impact>>.

What's more, the new rules will force [venue] out of business. [Summarize impact—employees forced out of work, facility, economic damages, etc]

These outcomes would be devastating to more people than just me and my employees. There are thousands of people I care about all over this community whose work would be adversely impacted by the Gaming Control Board's actions.

Please join me in protecting our community. Tell the Gaming Control Board and the Legislature to adopt responsible approaches to regulating an industry that's doing so much good.

Sincerely,

To the editor—

Recently, the Michigan Gaming Control Board released new proposed regulations for charitable gaming. These regulations are hurting charities, and furthermore, the Board doesn't even have the authority to instate the rules it has presented. All authority rests completely in the hands of one person...Executive Director Rick Kalm.

One of the new rules limits the number of charities holding a fundraiser in one place to one at a time. Currently _____ card room in _____ has booked three charities per day for the next year. Who decides which of these charities get to hold their fundraisers and which are forbidden from fundraising the way they had planned, a year in advance?

In addition to hurting charities, these new regulations hurt local businesses. One of the rules forces charities to wrap up all games and do the books before midnight. That means game play will have to end around eleven. For people who get out of work late, drive a ways to get to card rooms, or even just night owl poker players, it's not worth it for them to play for less than an hour. This will decimate the business of local card rooms, costing them thousands every night. Moreover, it's in Michigan's Bingo Act that games can continue to 2 a.m.— how can the MGCB change the law without any process, any input, or any vote?

Amend Michigan's charitable gaming laws—for the businesses, the players, the charities, and those they serve.

To the editor—

In mid-September, Richard Kalm, executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board, introduced new rules to regulate millionaire parties in Michigan. Several of these rules are financially damaging to charities, gaming venues like poker rooms and restaurants, as well as game dealers.

One of the new rules is diametrically opposed to the Bingo Act, which contains the laws currently regulating charitable gaming in the state. The Bingo Act says that gaming events may continue until 2 a.m. The new rules from Mr. Kalm say that all events must be completely wrapped up—chips cashed in and game records complete—by midnight. The reason for these changes, Mr. Kalm says, are the instances of armed robberies, assaults, weapons offenses, disorderly persons, and fraud over the last three--that the rules are to protect the integrity of the fundraising events. But I fail to see how these cited incidents are cause for a curfew on poker games. You'll see all these same offenses at bars and casinos, but bars remain open until 2 a.m. and the casinos you regulate are open 24/7, aren't they, Mr. Kalm?

So the questions remain: why were these rules made in the first place? Does the MGCB even have the authority to make these regulations? Sounds like some casino money is padding somebody's pockets.

To the editor—

I am a member of ____ (charity) _____. Over the past year, our charity has ____ (examples of good work done in the community) ____.

Recently, the executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board presented several new rules for millionaire party fundraisers. One of the rules further limits the amount of chips that can be in play. Another ends gameplay two hours earlier. A third makes it so only one charity at a time can hold an event at a location—even if the location can accommodate more than three charities' business.

As government programs continue to be cut, it becomes even more essential that nonprofits like mine pick up the slack. Someone has to take care of our community members who need help. As the government gets rid of these programs in favor of balancing the budget, we need these nonprofits to continue the work they're doing to support our friends and neighbors who depend on these valuable programs and services. The new rules from the MGCB accomplish nothing and hurt local charities, businesses, card dealers, and those served by the nonprofits. Please stand up for local charities and sign the petition to amend our charitable gaming rules at goo.gl/ydv2i.