

**Paul Vigil – Second Draft of Testimony
House State Affairs Committee
June 5, 2020**

Hello – My name is Paul Vigil. I am the owner of Barry's Bingo in Denver, off of Federal and Jewell and I am a member of the Colorado Charitable Bingo Associations Board of Directors. I want to start off by thanking all of you for listening to our testimony today.

I have been involved in the bingo community for last 22 years. During that time I have seen very few changes to bingo. As gaming in Colorado continues to evolve and expand, it is getting more difficult for nonprofits to run bingo. We have seen many nonprofit organizations make the hard decision of giving up their best fundraising opportunity through bingo because they are unable to retain enough volunteers. This is very hard to see as, this affects the community as a whole. These non-profits range from youth sports clubs to VFWs.

After many discussions with different non-profits and other bingo halls around Colorado, we have come to ~~the~~ recognize that we needed to make some changes. Those changes necessary are reducing the qualification period for obtaining a bingo raffle license and being able to compensate volunteers. Taking both of these provisions out of the constitution.

The industry supports the amendments that Rep. Singer and Rep. Wilson will be offering. These amendments were agreed to by all of the stakeholders involved in charitable gaming. They address the changes that are necessary for bingo to start to recover from the downward spiral the industry has seen over the last 15 years. These changes will invigorate the industry and better serve the nonprofit community.

I will be glad to answer any questions.

