

June 5, 2020

My name is Julie Hutchison and I am President of a Colorado non-profit organization set up in memory of my 16-year-old daughter who was taken from us in 2009 to SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy). The Chelsea Hutchison Foundation (CHF) is a Colorado non-profit corporation formed to provide help and support to individuals, particularly children and young adults, who have epilepsy. The main focus is to raise funds to provide financial assistance for tangible (what we believe to be) lifesaving movement monitors (not covered by insurance) and seizure-response dogs. In addition, CHF grants Chelsea's Wish Trips for families in our community to attend Epilepsy Awareness Educational Expo and Day at Disneyland each year.

CHF has been hosting Bingo sessions for the last four years and I currently sit on the Bingo Advisory Board for the State of Colorado. In the few years that CHF has hosted Bingo, it has dramatically improved our ability to provide services to our community (further explained below), however as Bingo laws were written in 1958, I feel strongly it could further benefit our efforts if changes recommended on the "Bingo/Raffle referred measure" were made. Those changes include:

1. Eliminate the "5-year requirement" a legitimate charitable organization has to wait in order to apply for and receive a Bingo/Raffle license. While this does not affect CHF, the Turn of the Century Bingo Hall located in Aurora, CO has three open sessions and most of the other organizations have been there for many years. Allowing newer organizations, the opportunity, in my opinion, could bring new fresh support to the hall benefiting all groups (average of players is 59), increase revenues for the bingo hall and bingo suppliers. Win-win for all involved.

2. Remove the restriction of "no remuneration". As stated in the 2017 Bingo and Raffle Study funded by the Colorado Secretary of State, the bingo industry is in a "death spiral". If you aren't familiar with this, I encourage you to take a look at the study which is accessible on the Secretary of State's web site. You can locate the Study on the main bingo page and review the information. It states, volunteerism is one of the main complaints from the bingo playing public and a reason charitable organization's either do not start bingo as a fundraiser or the reason they "suspend bingo operations". A change here will allow the option to pay organizational members to assist with bingo fundraising and open the door for professional bingo fundraising opportunities. More responsibility, accountability and professionalism.

Epilepsy affects over 3.4 million Americans of all ages, more than multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's disease - COMBINED. One in 26 will be diagnosed with Epilepsy in their lifetime. It is estimated that up to 50,000 die from SUDEP and seizure related causes every year in the US. CHF provides life-saving movement monitors not covered by insurance (950+), grants for seizure-response service dogs (133) and wish trips for families (82) to attend a one of a kind epilepsy expo, geared toward families living with the stresses and frustrations of epilepsy and seizure-related conditions. We receive 25-30 requests for help each week. In the past four years hosting Bingo, we have had the privilege of doubling our services and have eliminated all waiting lists for assistance through our bingo sessions. In 2019, we netted over \$113,000 in revenue which goes far (in addition to other events) for a small grassroots non-profit. In addition, we have so much fun hosting! Not only do bingo proceeds drive the financial success of CHF and other charitable organizations without the use of taxpayer dollars, it generates revenue for the State via taxes, fees and license renewals.

I am asking you to co-sponsor the "Bingo/Raffle referred measure". This referred measure will make changes to the Colorado Constitution that I believe will help move charitable bingo fundraising into the 21st century. I believe we need this to not only to save charitable bingo, but to begin to grow. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

