Michigan Charitable Gaming Association

Sample Advocacy Letter

[Name of Nonprofit Organization]

[Your Name]

[Mailing Address]

[Phone Number]

[Email]

(Date)

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

P.O. Box 30013

Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On behalf of (nonprofit name), located in (city), Michigan, I/we are writing to ask for your support of the soon-to-be introduced Senate and House bills, which would amend the Traxler-McCauley Bingo Act, and bring much needed changes to charitable gaming in the State of Michigan.

These bills will be introduced by Senator Tom Barrett and Representative Ben Frederick, and will be similar in substance to Senate Bill 35 and House Bill 4081 that were introduced during the 2017-2018 legislative session by Senator Rick Jones and then-Representative Tom Barrett. Both bills received overwhelming bipartisan support during the 2017-2018 session, and passed 100-9 in the House and 37-1 in the Senate. Unfortunately, on December 28, 2018, these bills were vetoed by Governor Rick Snyder.

(Nonprofit name) relies on funds raised from charitable gaming, including millionaire parties, to provide (*give specific examples of what your organization’s income raised from charitable gaming supports, e.g., provides 1,000 pounds of food to low-income school children through a weekend backpack program; and provide specific locations of where the funds are spent, e.g., the greater-Lansing community.*)

The Michigan Gaming Control Board’s administrative rules, effective June 25, 2015, jeopardize the future of (nonprofit name)’s ability to raise funds for (goods/services/programs for type of group, such as children, veterans, or animals) that directly benefit (community name). (Nonprofit name) believes that unless some much-needed legislative changes are made, that millionaire parties will no longer be a fundraising option due to the restrictive and onerous nature of the rules. An example(s) of how restrictive the rules are include(s): (*Give specific example of which rule is restricting your organization’s ability to utilize millionaire parties, such as the 3 volunteers requirement, or the chairperson can only be chair for one organization, or the $900/day expense limit is detrimental to your supplier, which in turn impacts your ability to host an event*.)

We also ask that you consider a new appointment to the Michigan Gaming Control Board Director position when Director Richard Kalm’s term expires on June 3, 2019. Under Director Kalm’s leadership, (nonprofit name) has not been offered any trainings, has received minimal communications, and has received conflicting directives, such as (*give specific examples of how your organization may have received conflicting information or had an issue, such as an unnecessary audit*).

Once again, we would ask for your support of the soon-to-be introduced Senate and House bills, to help counteract the impact of the recent administrative rules and to ensure the longevity of charitable gaming in Michigan. Charitable gaming (restate how it benefits your community.)

Sincerely,

(Your signature)

(Your printed name)

(Nonprofit name)

Cc: (Your State Senator)

(Your State Representative)

When sending a letter to your State Senator and State Representative, use these addresses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| STATE SENATOR  The Honorable (full name)  State Senator  State Capitol  P.O. Box 30036  Lansing, MI 48909-7536 | STATE REPRESENTATIVE  The Honorable (full name)  State Representative  State Capitol  P.O. Box 30014  Lansing, MI 48909-7514 |