



February 24, 2011

Dear Members of the General Assembly;

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of urgent legislation that shall be coming before the General Assembly in the near future. Bills introduced by Representatives Ron Miller and Eugene DePasquale, and in the Senate sponsored by Senator Ted Erickson.

These bills that would enhance current small games of chance provisions are vital to the continued existence and viability of countless community based charitable organizations. These bills would also give a much needed financial boost to thousands of small business throughout the Commonwealth. I am convinced that this boost would also play a large role in maintaining, if not greatly increasing, the employment situation that is of paramount concern to all Pennsylvanians.

For several years, charitable organizations have been pleaded with Harrisburg for these modest enhancements. Since the inception of small games of chance, our organizations have not seen any meaningful adjustment to our operations. We have been forced to make do with archaic rules despite having to withstand an avalanche of new gaming options from both the state and massive, for profit, gaming entities.

Many small businesses have also struggled on a daily basis to keep their doors open. These bills would certainly assist them in this fight. Both our members and the business community are essential to stabilizing the Pennsylvania tax base. We provide services so that state local governments are spared part of that burden. The small businesses provide revenue to those governmental bodies for the services they must supply. Without either leg of the fiscal stool, a community services collapse is inevitable.

Therefore, Allied Charities of Pennsylvania respectfully requests your strong support and prompt consideration of these critical bills. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Emmet M. Mahon
Director, Legislative Affairs
Allied Charities of Pennsylvania