



Travel Industry Association of Kansas

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Written Testimony in Favor of SCR 1618
Presented to the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
by Natalie Bright
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Chairman Ostmeyer and honorable committee members,

I am appearing on behalf of the Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK), which is the unified voice speaking on behalf of the travel industry in the state of Kansas. Our organization has over 150 members representing and promoting communities all over Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and to express our concerns with SCR 1618.

The Kansas constitution currently prohibits the operation of lotteries except for specifically authorized lotteries. A raffle is a lottery and is illegal under current law. As introduced, SCR 1618 proposes to amend Article 15 of the Kansas Constitution allowing the Legislature to authorize the conduct of charitable raffles by nonprofit religious, charitable, fraternal, and educational and veteran's organizations. The definition of what constitutes a charitable raffle would be left to the wisdom of the Legislature.

TIAK supports the proposed change set out in SCR 1618 because our community leaders know that many events and festivals held in their communities incorporate raffles as part of their activities and fundraising efforts, but that they do so at the risk of being cited. We believe it is time for Kansas to join the other states who specifically exempt nonprofit raffles. Our members are in agreement that a constitutional amendment is the best resolution to allow nonprofit raffles.

On behalf of TIAK members, I urge this Committee and all legislators to support SCR 1618. Each of us at one time or another have purchased a raffle ticket at church, from a boy scout or at a community fundraiser, with no intention of winning, but to support the mission of the nonprofit organization. I urge you to adopt SCR 1618 so that all of us can legally participate in these raffles and assure the continuation of charitable funding through the sale of raffle tickets.