

Representative Harold James  
July 29, 2008  
Opening Remarks

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to be here today. Today we are here to discuss HB1663, sponsored by Representative Caltagirone. Today we will hear testimony from VFW, American Legion, Casino Free, the Pennsylvania Family Institute, and the Association of Nationally Chartered Organizations. It is through bringing together diverse voices like these that we come to the best policy decisions.

We often forget that the organizations in our community are feeling the crunch of today's economy just as individual citizens. The members of these organizations must think of new and different ways to fund-raise, while continuing to serve their neighbors. Representative Caltagirone's proposal provides one way that these organizations can continue to do this.

The purpose of this hearing is for those who have a stake in this particular proposal to share their opinions with the members of this committee. I thank all those who came traveled to Harrisburg to attend this hearing. At this time, I ask Representative Clymer, Minority Chair, for his remarks.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who testified today before this committee. I always find myself with a bit more knowledge after these hearings, and for this, I am always grateful.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the members of the House Gaming Oversight Committee who came from their districts to be here today. I know that I speak for them when I say that we will be certain to weigh what we have learned today before making a decision on this matter.

I look forward to seeing the members of the committee tomorrow at 9:30 in the same room we are in today.

Thank you.