

March 22, 2019

Dear Chairman Marshall & Members of the House Gaming Oversight Committee:

On behalf of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) and its business development division, PHL Sports, we'd like to lend our full support to HB 826 the proposed "Sports Raffles Charity Act". Most notably, we support the expansion of 50/50 fundraising programs to collegiate teams that compete on behalf of an institution of higher education.

The PHLCVB and PHL Sports are responsible for producing the Army-Navy Game on behalf of the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Each year the game is held in Philadelphia, it attracts more than 50,000 fans, generates over 25,000 hotel room nights and has an economic impact of \$35 million. Philadelphia looks forward to hosting the Army-Navy Game in 2019, 2020 and 2022.

In addition to these benefits, the PHLCVB Foundation, in partnership with PHL Sports, fundraise to support a number of initiatives through the PHLCVB Foundation's *Red, White and You Community Outreach Program* including:

- Hosting 350 local JROTC students at a leadership event prior to the Army-Navy Game and providing transportation and tickets to attend the game.
- Hosting over 100 Wounded Warriors and Gold Star Families at the game annually.
- Orchestrating *Operation Gratitude Day*, which collects items for care packages that are sent to active duty military and their families. In 2018, the PHLCVB Foundation collected over \$3,000 of monetary donations and over 2,000 pounds of physical donations.

These programs connect the Army-Navy Game to the broader community and help to facilitate the traditions and values that 'America's Game' represents. Being able to implement a 50/50 fundraising program during the Army-Navy Game would allow the PHLCVB Foundation and both of the Service Academies an opportunity to expand their reach, serve more students, and support more active military and their families.

We encourage the state legislature to consider expanding these excellent fundraising tools to higher education and wholeheartedly support the passage of HB 826 the "Sports Raffles Charity Act".

Sincerely,



Julie Coker Graham  
President & CEO  
PHLCVB



Larry Needle  
Executive Director, PHL Sports  
PHLCVB