

And the...and I think Senator Lynch will probably talk a little bit about some of the things that have resulted to the charitable organizations that we did not really intend, and I just wanted to make it very clear that the stand of myself, as the Chairman of the General Affairs Committee, is in support of this because we do retain enough money to regulate and that is an issue that we might want to look at again next year, too, when we look at all of gaming and gambling activity. But, nevertheless, I think that this is fair and I will support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, and members, I would like to also rise to support the amendments as described and the bill providing the amendments are on there in 1055. It was mentioned with the horses that there are about 2,000 jobs involved and it is an important part of our economy, and we should, in fact, provide within this state a system where a...which would normally be a tax collected and given to the state would be given back to the industry, ala LB 775, so that they continue to function for all of the good reasons and the right reasons, which I agree with, like, for example, the tourism and the motel rooms, the meals that are purchased and the rest. I would like to suggest that over lunch I wrote down some of the charitable gaming institutions I just have in my district, and I guess you could multiply this 50 times and sometimes even more than that. I have got three churches. I have got three veterans groups. I have got two private clubs that work with pickles or bingo, one way or another, and a conservative count of the people involved in that are 67. Now in case you say, well, those 67 people don't work year-around so that isn't a real number. Well, most do. Teachers work year-around, they teach school, they go to school in the summer, whether you are teaching in a private school or in a public school. But on the other hand those people that work the dog tracks or the horse tracks, I should say, don't work year-around at all. They work in those areas and at those tracks where, in fact, and when only, in fact, those tracks are open. This is one of those equity issues, it seems to me, and a very small price to pay, indeed, to help people who are trying to help themselves sustain these very good causes. For too long a time we allowed a serious discrimination against charitable gaming as compared to the thoroughbred racing. I think we should begin to think in equal terms and fair terms regarding both and apply the same principles to both.