

ROGER FELIX  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
LD 835

Good Morning My name is Roger Felix and I am the Commander of the VFW in Caribou. I have been the post Commander for the past 10 years and on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Caribou Maine I and my comrades highly encourage this committee to add and approve this act that would allow children to participate in Beano games conducted by non profits and charitable organizations to the current ME Beano laws . In the past these Bingo events have been set aside days for the charities to support youth in their local communities, and at no time was it a regular Bingo session. We held these events until this year when we were notified by the gaming commission to cancel as it was in violation of the rules. I explained in detail how these events involved no fees or money exchanged and were only using the facility as a charity event. I also explained the back to school bingos children play for school supplies and backpacks as well as the annual Christmas children's bingo where kids play bingo for Christmas presents for themselves and others. All of the events for children were at no costs to participate and all children left with a gifts just for coming. I also explained that all the items during these events were purchased and provided by the post, as our way of giving back to the local children. Even after all the pleading to please not force us to cancel we had to this past Christmas break the hearts of the kids by not doing the event. By allowing us to have these events as exceptions to the Beano laws you will in turn provide us the continued ability to serve our communities and ensure kids have the much needed supplies for school and more importantly a Christmas session with a gift. This act is really for the kids and should be enacted immediately so my organization and others in the future are not having to tell children that were sorry our annual event is cancelled and you can not participate because somehow you doing so conflicts with the beano gaming laws in Maine because the facility hosting the event also on separate days runs a regulated bingo session for people to participate in the actual game of chance. So again please let me restate for the record that during our kids back to school and Christmas bingo events that the event is only for children and cost nothing to play while more importantly everyone leave a winner with a prize, school supplies, and Christmas gifts. Please add this no brainer act into the beano rules and allow us to continue supporting our local kids Thank you