



Testimony of Debbie L. Patterson, Executive Director of Maine Harness Horsemen's Association, in Favor of LD1405, "An Act to Regulate, Tax and Control Sports Wagering" April 30, 2021

Good Morning Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee. I am speaking to you today in favor of LD1405. Sports Wagering is an opportunity for the State of Maine to have an additional revenue source. There are currently 21 states and the District of Columbia that have legalized some form of sports wagering and 5 more states will be launching sometime this year.

The key factor that stands out in this bill, is it is tied to brick & mortar. (Casinos, Commercial racetracks & OTBS) this will help the harness racing industry introduce itself to new fans. Over the last several years there have been a group of individuals working hard to get fans back to the track. This would be a huge boost.

An economic impact study was done in 2016 showing that direct revenue (sales) associated with the harness racing industry is estimated to have supported a total of \$57.5 million in economic output, defined as the total value of goods and services produced in the Maine economy. In addition, the industry is estimated to have supported over 1,000 full-time, part-time, and temporary jobs and \$27 million in personal income in the Maine economy.

Maine Harness Racing will host close to 150 live events this year from Bangor to Cumberland and Union to Fryeburg. With Sports Wagering being tied to casinos, commercial tracks and OTBs, this is an opportunity to build this industry. LD1405 will help the state and it will help Maine Harness Racing.

Debbie L. Patterson

Sidney Maine