



4101 University Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 222-0798
www.excelalaska.org

March 8, 2021

Dear Representative Fields,

I am writing in support of HB-128. Alaska EXCEL is an Anchorage-based educational nonprofit located on the Alaska Pacific University campus. Our organization serves rural Alaskan youthgrades 7th through 12th.

Alaska EXCEL hosted the Great Alaska Duck Race in downtown Anchorage in September 2020. Our fundraising efforts were a success, largely due to the temporary change to charitable gaming laws to allow for on-line raffles in the state of Alaska. Our fundraisers have allowed us to continue to provide important services to our rural Alaskan students. Raising more than \$100,000 The Great Alaska Duck Race not only provided for our organization, but also 10 other Alaskan nonprofit organizations that participated in the event.

The temporary change has permitted Alaskan organizations holding a gaming permit to conduct fundraisers without face-to-face contact due to the pandemic. It has also allowed Alaska EXCEL to use on-line platforms to reach our supporters and broaden the impact of the fundraisers held. Our fundraisers can now be statewide events, including remote areas of Alaska that could not have participated previously.

The important services nonprofit organizations provide to Alaskans are not supplemented by the state, and on-line fundraising is a valuable tool for organizations like Alaska EXCEL. If the gaming laws do not change we fear we will not be able to afford to host annual events such as The Great Alaska Duck Race. This fun downtown community event would not be possible to host without a large amount of ticket sales. Without having the ability to sell tickets on-line it would be difficult for our organization to host such a costly and time-consuming endeavor.

We are asking the Department of Revenue to allow the changes for on-line charitable gaming to be made permanent. The current laws are outdated and events can now be conducted with increased accuracy and better results through the use of technology. Finally, please see attached letter of support from our organization sent prior on this issue, as well as others urging the administration make these changes permanent.

If you have any questions regarding this request or how the regulation change has helped our organization raise funds, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or my cell phone below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Wilson, Executive Director
Alaska EXCEL
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Cell (907) 632-5725 | Office (907) 222-0798
cwilson@excelalaska.org