



American Cancer Society  
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TO: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Chair

FROM: Christopher J. Masoner,  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.

DATE: February 14, 2013

RE: SB 148 – Concerning Raffles

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Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the concepts addressed by SB 148. As the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, we strive to provide a voice for all cancer survivors and their loved ones in the State of Kansas, including the nearly 14,000 that will be newly diagnosed this year. We support efforts to remove legal restrictions on the ability of charitable organizations to raise funds through the conduct of raffles. In further support of our position, we offer the following:

- The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.
- Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. Each year, more than 4 million people in over 20 countries take part in this global phenomenon. In Kansas, the Society has 90 Relay For Life events which involve approximately 30,000 Kansans.
- Each Relay For Life is a community-owned/volunteer-driven activity, with Society staff coaching the volunteers. There is a true partnership between volunteers and staff.
- Teams of people from all walks of life have fun while raising much-needed funds to fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. The teams, made up of family members, friends and coworkers, implement their favorite fundraising events to raise money for their teams. These events include ideas their team deems to be fun and worthwhile activities.

- Teams are asked to work with their staff partners to ensure that their local events meet fund raising guidelines and adhere to state and federal laws. In Kansas, staff partners are often asked by volunteers why they cannot conduct raffles.
- Raffles are permitted in many states. Raffles provide another avenue for teams to raise more money to support the life-saving mission of the American Cancer Society.
- We understand there may be concerns raised about the particular provisions of SB 148 or other legislation concerning raffles. Our support of this bill is not intended as a commitment to any particular statutory language, but to the overall concept of removing legal impediments to the conduct of a raffle for the purpose of raising funds for a bona fide charitable organization. We will be supportive of any final legislation that accomplishes that intent.

Thank you for your consideration.