

Testimony in Favor of Proposed Bill 5184

Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is David Jacobs, Executive Director of the Mandell Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center in West Hartford. I am joined by Melvin Simon, past President and current Board member of the Mandell JCC.

I am here to testify in support of House Bill No. 5184: *AN ACT PERMITTING COUPON BOOKS TO BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE FOR PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS.*

The following organizations cannot be here to testify but have asked me to report they are all in full support of HB 5184: The alliance of Connecticut . YMCA's, The Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce.

Non-profit organizations are in an ongoing quest to develop annual and reliable sources of revenue to enable them to maintain levels of programs and services offered to the community. Traditional forms of revenue from the United Way (from whom we receive support), donors, fees and due are often not enough to balance a budget. Fund raising, in its many forms, has become commonplace in the non-profit world. Our daily email is filled with new ideas and concepts for doing fundraisers – from galas and auctions, to car washes and cookie sales - organizations of every size are engaged in trying to generate additional revenue.

Raffles are among the most common of fundraisers that are undertaken in the non-profit world, and it has been one of the JCC's most successful. Prizes are solicited from and donated by local businesses, and tickets are sold by volunteer committee members. DRS's *Administrative Regulations for the Operation of Bazaars and Raffles* govern the raffle event and we adhere to those rules.

In 2007, after two years of providing restaurant coupons with our raffle tickets, we were cited by DRS because of the rule stated in Sec. 7-185-12b.(i) and it is that section this bill is seeking to amend. The section provides that "No organization shall...in the conduct of a ...raffle, give a service or thing of value without charge...to persons participating in the raffle...." This bill asks that the regulations be amended to allow for a coupon bonus to anyone who purchases a raffle ticket.

In the case of the JCC, we have had restaurant owners willing to give us coupons to distribute along with the raffle ticket purchase, enabling buyers to get a percentage off dining in their establishments. I have included a sample of the coupon program we utilized that year. Other non-profit organizations might offer a coupon that provides for a discount in their gift shop or a free guest pass to their organization, e.g. the YMCA, the Children's Museum, etc.

These coupons are just one more tool that might help volunteers in the challenging and often thankless job of fund raising. People are approached all the time to donate to different causes. By being able to offer coupons like these, people are more encouraged to buy one or two tickets. (over....)

When raffles are successful and meet their financial goals, the non-profits benefit, as do the people they serve. We are able to help fund deficit programs and sometimes able to add new ones. The more a non-profit can do to support their community and constituency, the better they are able to do in achieving their missions. This bill helps us do that.

A companion House Bill No. 35, ***AN ACT REPEALING RESTRICTIONS ON ADVERTISEMENT OF A BAZAAR OR RAFFLE***, allows for the use of mailed brochures and electronic media to promote these raffles. We also support this bill because it provides yet another way to make our fundraiser known to our members and others and hopefully increase the money raised.

Thank you for the opportunity to have testified, and I am happy to answer any questions.

\$25,000 gift certificate redeemable at The Hoffman Art & Motivative Group
 If the value of the gift certificate exceeds the value of the prize, the
 a gift certificate for the difference. Will Issue



SECOND PRIZE
 \$5,000 gift certificate redeemable at Liberty Travel

THIRD PRIZE

Black Onyx Cabochon Necklace set in 14K gold and white sapphires on a 25" chain
 By Emily and Ashley Value \$2,825

Three prizes to be awarded

The Big JCC Raffle is sponsored by the
 Mandell Jewish Community Center
 to benefit the 2007 Scholarship Fund.

\$100 per ticket. Prize drawing to be held at the Mandell Jewish Community Center,
 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117, on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 7:30 PM.
 Need not be present to win. Raffle Tickets are not tax deductible.
 Taxes are the responsibility of the recipient. Prizes not redeemable for cash.

No. XXXX

No. XXXX



NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE _____



Buy One and Get One Free



236 Hartford Tnpk. • Vernon, CT
 860.872.4200

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



185 Asylum St. • Hartford, CT
 860.522.2530

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



136 Simsbury Rd. • Avon, CT
 860.676-2672

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



357 Main St. • Hartford, CT
 860.547-1714

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Buy One and Get One Free



Churrascaria Braza
 488 Farmington Ave. • Hartford • 860.882.1839
 Hot Tomatoes
 1 Union Place • Hartford, CT • 860.249.5100

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



819 Farmington Ave. • Farmington, CT
 860.674-1224

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



Restaurant Bricco
 78 LaSalle Rd. • West Hartford • 860.233.0220
 Grants
 977 Farmington Ave. • West Hartford, CT • 860.236.1930

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free

OPENING
 THIS WINTER



124 Hebron Ave. • Glastonbury, CT
 860.559-3933

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



986 Farmington Ave. • West Hartford, CT
 860.236.6195

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



1245 New Britain Ave. • West Hartford, CT
 860.561.0180

see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



93 Asylum St. • Hartford, CT
 860.549.3364

see reverse side for details

Thank You to
 all of our
 Coupon Sponsors!



**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Saturday evenings except in July & August.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

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Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Valid any time. Entertainment not included.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Valid any time.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Thursday, Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

