Department of Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States

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Testimony of Mr. Greg Smith, State Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Connecticut In Support of HB 7054 - An Act Concerning Keno.

April 15, 2015

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, On behalf of the members of the Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), I am writing today to urge you to support HB 7054.

The members of the Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) fully support the implementation of Keno in Connecticut.

As I am sure you are aware, our vast network of VFW Post Service Officers provides vital assistance to Connecticut Veterans needing access to the Veterans Affairs (VA) services they have earned. Our VSO's work tirelessly, often on nights and weekends, to help veterans obtain the proper disability compensation, GI Bill access, aid and attendance of elderly veterans, and other very important services. Our main Servicer Office, located in Newington, helps thousands of Veterans and their families each year to receive the entitlements due them. No doubt, without the VFW, it would fall to the State of Connecticut to perform many of these tasks.

The implementation of Keno in Connecticut would provide much needed funds to our organization and help us to continue and hopefully expand the work we do for Veterans and their families across our state.

In Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts and other states, Keno is very successful in generating revenue for their VFW's. In Connecticut, we believe Keno will be as popular with our members as it is in the surrounding states that offer the lottery game.

This a valuable opportunity for the State of Connecticut and our VFW posts and we respectfully urge you to support the implementation of keno in our state.

Respectfully,

Mr. Gregory Smith, State Commander
Department of Connecticut
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.