

Terry P. Presta Executive Director Jeff Colyer, M.D. Governor

## Testimony Before The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs Senate Bill 455 April 4, 2018

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 455 proposes to allow sports wagering in Kansas. As recognized by SB455, the rights of most states in the United States to offer sports wagering (including Kansas) is contingent upon the United States Supreme Court's disposition of a case out of New Jersey. An opinion in that case is expected to be rendered no later than June of this year.

SB455 also acknowledges that unless the Kansas Constitution is amended, all sports wagering must be owned and operated by the State of Kansas. Just as with the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (KELA) in which gaming at certain casinos and racetrack gaming facilities was authorized in 2007, SB455 recognizes that sports wagering must be owned and operated by the the State of Kansas. Further, and again just as with KELA, SB455 provides the Kansas Lottery will own and operate sports wagering on behalf of the State of Kansas with certain regulatory authority vested in the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission (KRGC).

Whether or not to allow sports wagering in Kansas is of course a policy decision to be made by the legislature and Governor. Just as with KELA eleven years ago, if SB455 is passed into law the Lottery will do its best to implement the program.

The Lottery has no objection to sports wagering or SB455 in general. There are, however, a few administrative and operational provisions in SB455 upon which the Lottery and proponents of the bill are actively working to arrive at mutually agreeable language. Based on recent conversations the Lottery is confident we will be able to do so.

Thank you.