

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2168

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LICENSING & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Hearing Date: March 24, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Jennifer Regnier, Executive Director

Spurs Give

San Antonio, TX

Greetings,

The Spurs Give 50/50 Raffle began in 2018 and its impact was immediate and profound. It quickly brought in \$500,000 for Spurs Give, which went directly to programs impacting San Antonio's youth.

In an effort to continue having this impact, we support the passage of HB 2168. It ensures funding for programs that leave a positive footprint in South Central Texas and a lasting impression on its youth. Since 1988, Spurs charitable foundations have invested \$28 million into the community. That investment has supported our initiatives in educational programming, literacy, STEM/coding, food access and equity, scholarships, and health and wellness education. It also supports our youth sports programs, such as Spurs Youth Basketball League, which provides recreational basketball in economically disadvantaged areas. Most recently, 50/50 raffle funds have helped to support "Play SA", a four-year, \$1 million commitment to renovate parks and community basketball courts across San Antonio. These funds play a critical role in providing opportunity within all of these initiatives, and they ultimately ensure a better future for the youth in our communities.

Now, more than ever, HB 2168 is needed. In the 2018-2019 season, Spurs Give raised more than \$260,000 from our 50/50 charitable raffle and we were on pace to match that in 2019-2020 before the pandemic struck and halted that fundraising.

Allowing Spurs Give, and other professional sports foundations, to conduct charitable raffles remotely helps close the "charitable giving gap" that has widened during the pandemic. Further, it offers a common-sense solution to a pandemic-era problem by allowing our fans to conduct safe, mobile transactions.

At Spurs Give, we believe that change is possible and can happen against all odds. HB 2168 allows positive changes to continue happening here in San Antonio and across the great state of Texas.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Regnier
Executive Director, Spurs Give