

March 2, 2020

Washington State Gambling Commission
4565 – 7th Avenue SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Commissioners Sizemore, Patterson, Troyer, and Levy:

Greetings – my name is Dr. Melinda Giovengo, and I have been the CEO of YouthCare for more than 13 years. I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to update 50/50 raffle rules submitted by NHL Seattle, Seattle Mariners, Seattle Sounders FC, and Seattle Seahawks.

YouthCare was founded in 1974 as one of the first runaway and homeless youth shelters on the West Coast. The goal was to help homeless youth find safety today and build stability for tomorrow. This passionate vision continues to drive YouthCare every day. Over these four decades, we've defined best practices, developed programs that are a national standard for excellence, and ensured that young people experiencing homelessness have the hope, skills, and self-confidence needed to thrive.

Over the last few years, YouthCare and NHL Seattle have been creating a robust partnership to build training and meaningful employment to youth moving from homelessness to stability. This collaboration will bring 1,000s of young people to their both their first job, and a home for a lasting, family-wage career. Further, our partnership focuses on the nearly countless opportunities to inspire guests of the arena to learn more about innovative solutions for youth homelessness and act – immediately.

Working together, we have a very special opportunity to both change the lives of individuals as well as bring inspiration and hope to the community. No one grows up wanting to be homeless. The young people we meet are navigating life circumstances beyond their control—they all want the chance to stabilize and thrive. Every young person has potential; everyone grows up with curiosity and dreams for their future. We must leverage this opportunity.

In conclusion, we encourage your support of the proposed amendment as it would meaningfully increase the collective impact of YC' partnership with NHL Seattle. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Sincerely and with gratitude,



Dr. Melinda Giovengo – CEO, YouthCare /// melinda.giovengo@youthcare.org