

March 10,2021

Justice Committee- Single -Event Sports Wagering

My name is Josie Carroll. I am a thoroughbred horse trainer based in Ontario. My career on the racetrack began in 1976. Since then this industry has been very good to me. I have been fortunate enough to win Canada's premier race ,the Queens Plate three times and was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. As a director on the board of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective association I have, I believe, a heightened awareness of the challenges facing our industry. Hence I am writing about Bill C-218 which enables Provincial Government to conduct and manage bookmaking at fixed odds on single events sports betting including horse racing. Without proper protection for horse racing this bill would decimate our industry. It is vital that the solution introduced by the government in Bill C13, retaining the protection for horseracing from incursion by fixed odds single event sports wagering on horse racing, be adopted.

I am not sure how much you know about the structure of our industry. We support directly and indirectly over 50,000 jobs. As just one trainer (there are over 200 of us based at Woodbine racetrack alone) based at just one of the many racetracks in Canada I have about 50 horses in my care on the track and 20 to 30 more supporting employment on area farms. At the racetrack I have about 30 full time employees. Many of these people are able to live in on site housing accommodations provided for them. Our Horsemen's association provides a pension plan, access to health and dental. Most are in the low income bracket with little or no skills to pursue work outside of our industry. For us however they are invaluable caregivers to our horses and respected and valued for what they do. My business further supports veterinarians, who check up daily on our equine athletes, blacksmiths (horses are shod at least monthly), equine chiropractors and massage therapists, tack stores, feed mills, farms that produce hay and straw and the companies that deliver those products to our urban area. We who race horses are the heart of this huge industry! There is no breeding industry for horse racing if we can no longer sustain this centuries old sport. There are no jobs for the thousands of us who have devoted our lives to this amazing sport and these wonderful horses. There will no longer be a place for these thousands of race horses who descend from blood lines developed hundreds of years ago.

What you may ask does this have to do with wagering? Unlike most professional sports, our ability to sustain our industry is reliant on wagering. The purse money that our horses earn from racing is reliant on dollars wagered. The racetracks at which our horses perform rely on dollars wagered. The breeders of horses rely on dollars bet in order to make it feasible for owners to buy and race these horses. In order for a horse owner or breeder to carry the huge cost of caring for our horses they obviously need earnings. The purse money account comes from dollars wagered. Until now we have been the sole sport an individual can place a pari-mutuel bet on. When wagering on other popular sports, including horse racing, is allowed at fixed odds that revenue will no longer funnel into our sport to support our industry. With no source of income our industry cannot survive. The only way this will work is if we retain control of the revenue from dollars wagered on the product that we produce and maintain. As a further source of income we are seeking to introduce gaming on historical horseracing. This has proven a lifesaver in some other North American states. It would work together with our revenue from wagering on our product to help us be self sustaining as an industry.

I know you have been hearing a lot about the technical side of how this new single event wagering needs to be conducted and administered in order to offer protection to horse racing. My aim today is

to provide you ,on a grassroots level why it is imperative that you throw your support behind our industry. You will be supporting the thousands of us who own,breed,race and care for these equine athletes. Please help us to stay alive and part of the way sports wagering will operate in the future.

Thank You. Josie Carroll