

To: rep.randy.jessup@house.mn

Subject: Stadium Fund Money on Veterans' Home Plan

Representative Jessup,

My name is Tracy Henry and I am president of the Irondale Youth Hockey Association. I recently learned about the plan to transfer \$30 million of excess money from the Stadium Fund to the general fund in order to build three veterans' homes. While I applaud the noble sentiment, please be advised that this is a slap in the face of all the charities that raised the money locally to fund local initiatives.

Charitable gaming revenue feeding the Stadium Fund comes from organizations like mine, which fund youth hockey. When people purchase pulltabs in Shoreview, or Arden Hills, or New Brighton, or Mounds View they're certainly hoping to win, but they understand their losses are going towards the organization that sponsors the booth. Their intent is to put kids on the ice. Some of them understand that their losses go towards the Vikings stadium. NONE of them believe their losses are going toward veterans' homes. Again, as noble as that cause might be, I imagine they'd much, much rather have that money stay in the community.

We place photos of all the youth hockey players above our pulltab booths to remind players what their losses support. Check it out for yourself the next time you're in Shore 96 or the Green Mill in Shoreview. Do you think we should add photos of US Bank Stadium and veterans' homes above our booths?

Here's my proposal: Scrap the plan to raid the Stadium Fund to build veterans' homes. Instead, propose \$30m in tax relief to local charitable gaming so that those dollars can go where they were intended to go.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Tracy Henry
IYHA President