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American Legion Department of Ohio, AMVETS Department of Ohio, VFW Department of Ohio, OVFCC, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Ohio State Elks Association and Ohio State Moose Association:

As you are aware, the Charitable Law Section of Attorney General's Office ("the Office") is working collectively towards the goal of getting electronic instant bingo started by April 1. I am writing to inform you of recent serious incidents that have made this more difficult. On two separate occasions, a bingo compliance inspector was subjected to hostile and threatening treatment while trying to determine a post's eligibility to conduct electronic instant bingo. In each instance, the inspector identified themselves as an agent of the Office, provided identification and stated they were there to conduct an inspection. While there, in the presence of employees of the post, both inspectors encountered verbal abuse from patrons. In one instance, a patron also placed her hand on the inspector's shoulder while informing the employee that she did not have to answer the inspector's questions. The inspector left without completing the inspection.

Continued interference in the inspection process cannot be tolerated. The Office is asking for your help to ensure that such interference will not continue. Please share this information with your members and advise them that the Office will continue to conduct these inspections and expect their cooperation in making this happen. This includes keeping patrons from interfering and ensuring agents of the Office are not subject to physical intimidation or threats of violence of any type. Failure to do so may result in adverse impact to a post's bingo license, and even a delay in the implementation of electronic instant bingo.

Once again, thank you for your help and continued cooperation.

Very respectfully yours,  
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