



July 21, 2009

Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
Senate Office Building
448 Russell
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dodd:

I am writing in support of Bill HR 2906, Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act. I work at Wheeler Clinic in Hartford, Conn. I have also started a Gambling Intervention Group at York Correction Facility in Niantic Conn. the first gambling program in the state for women who have been incarcerated due to a gambling related crime.

Gambling for some is recreational, but for many crossing the line could very well mean loss of family, job, and home and possibly life due to this addiction. Because gambling is socially acceptable, many feel, "How could it be a problem"? The Silent Addiction as it is called has no visible signs, and can stay hidden for quite a long time, but once the gambler is found out at least six people family members, employers, or friends have been impacted by the gamblers actions.

I know only too well what this addiction can do, as I am a recovering compulsive gambler. I lost a marriage of 36yrs., family and friends. I am also a convicted felon. I never served time at York CI, but I could have.

I would like to invite you to one of our groups. We meet every Thursday at 1:30PM. Letters of support for this bill are crucial, but meeting with these women who have known the pain and misunderstanding of this addiction will have a much larger impact than the letters alone.

I look forward to hearing from and thank you in advance for the support of this crucial bill.

Sincerely

Donna Zaharevitz
Wheeler Clinic Adult Services
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