

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2334

To amend the Public Health Service Act to specifically include, in programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, programs to research, prevent, and treat the harmful consequences of pathological and other problem gambling, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2011

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to specifically include, in programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, programs to research, prevent, and treat the harmful consequences of pathological and other problem gambling, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Comprehensive Prob-  
5 lem Gambling Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) Problem gambling is a public health dis-  
2           order characterized by increasing preoccupation with  
3           gambling, loss of control, restlessness or irritability  
4           when attempting to stop gambling, and continuation  
5           of the gambling behavior in spite of mounting, seri-  
6           ous, negative consequences.

7           (2) Over 6,000,000 adults met criteria for a  
8           gambling problem last year.

9           (3) The estimated social cost to families and  
10          communities from bankruptcy, divorce, job loss, and  
11          criminal justice costs associated with problem gam-  
12          bling was \$6,700,000,000 last year.

13          (4) Problem gambling is associated with higher  
14          incidences of bankruptcy, domestic abuse, and sui-  
15          cide.

16          (5) People who engage in problem gambling  
17          have high rates of co-occurring substance abuse and  
18          mental health disorders.

19          (6) In response to current budget shortfalls,  
20          many States are considering enacting or have en-  
21          acted legislation to expand legal gambling activities  
22          with the intent of raising State revenues.

23          (7) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
24          Services Administration is the lead Federal agency  
25          for substance abuse and mental health services.

1           (8) There are no agencies or individuals in the  
2           Federal Government with formal responsibility for  
3           problem gambling.

4 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AUTHORITY TO TREAT GAMBLING IN**  
5 **SAMHSA AUTHORITIES.**

6           Section 501(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 290aa(d)) is amended—

8           (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
9           (17);

10           (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
11           graph (18) and inserting “; and”; and

12           (3) by adding at the end the following:

13           “(19) establish and implement programs for the  
14           prevention, treatment, and research of pathological  
15           and other problem gambling.”.

16 **SEC. 4. PROGRAMS TO RESEARCH, PREVENT, AND ADDRESS**  
17 **PROBLEM GAMBLING.**

18           Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 290aa et seq.) is amended—

20           (1) by redesignating part G (42 U.S.C. 290kk  
21           et seq.), relating to services provided through reli-  
22           gious organizations and added by section 144 of the  
23           Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (114  
24           Stat. 2763A–619), as enacted into law by section  
25           1(a)(7) of Public Law 106–554, as part J;

1           (2) by redesignating sections 581 through 584  
2           of that part J as sections 596 through 596C, respec-  
3           tively; and

4           (3) by adding at the end the following:

5           **“PART K—PROGRAMS TO RESEARCH, PREVENT,**  
6           **AND ADDRESS PROBLEM GAMBLING**

7           **“SEC. 597. PUBLIC AWARENESS.**

8           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
9           the Administrator, shall carry out a national campaign to  
10          increase knowledge and raise awareness within the general  
11          public with respect to problem gambling issues. In car-  
12          rying out the campaign, the Secretary shall carry out ac-  
13          tivities that include augmenting and supporting existing  
14          (as of the date of the support) national campaigns and  
15          producing and placing public service announcements.

16          “(b) VOLUNTARY DONATIONS.—In carrying out sub-  
17          section (a), the Secretary may—

18                 “(1) coordinate the voluntary donation of, and  
19                 administer, resources to assist in the implementation  
20                 of new programs and the augmentation and support  
21                 of existing national campaigns to provide national  
22                 strategies for dissemination of information, intended  
23                 to treat problem gambling, from—

24                         “(A) television, radio, motion pictures,  
25                         cable communications, and the print media;

1 “(B) the advertising industry;

2 “(C) the business sector of the United  
3 States; and

4 “(D) professional sports organizations and  
5 associations; and

6 “(2) encourage media outlets throughout the  
7 country to provide information, aimed at preventing  
8 problem gambling, including public service an-  
9 nouncements, documentary films, and advertise-  
10 ments.

11 “(c) FOCUS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Sec-  
12 retary shall target radio and television audiences of events  
13 including sporting and gambling events.

14 “(d) EVALUATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),  
15 the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of activities  
16 under this section. The Secretary shall submit a report  
17 to the President and Congress containing the results of  
18 the evaluation.

19 **“SEC. 597A. RESEARCH.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
21 the Administrator, shall establish and implement a na-  
22 tional program of research on problem gambling.

23 “(b) NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMIS-  
24 SION REPORT.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary  
25 shall consider the recommendations that appear in chapter

1 8 of the June 18, 1999, report of the National Gambling  
2 Impact Study Commission.

3 **“SEC. 597B. TREATMENT.**

4 “The Secretary shall develop a treatment improve-  
5 ment protocol specific to problem gambling.

6 **“SEC. 597C. PREVENTION.**

7 “The Secretary, acting through the Administrator,  
8 shall integrate problem gambling into existing alcohol, to-  
9 bacco and other drug prevention programs, where prac-  
10 tical.”.

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