

Fight Gambling Addiction!

Support H.R. 2334, the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act

Gambling and problem gambling are at an all-time high—did you know that today:

- **48 states** and a majority of tribes have legalized gambling?
- **75%** of adults gamble at least once in the year, **15%** at least weekly?
- **\$95 billion** in **gaming revenue** is generated by casinos, tracks and state lotteries?
- **\$6 billion** per year in **Federal tax revenue** comes from individual gambling winnings?
- **6 million adults** and **500,000 teens** meet criteria for gambling addiction?
- **\$6 billion** is the annual social cost of gambling-related addiction, bankruptcy and crime?

The recent economic downturn only compounds this situation as many states consider expanding legalized gambling and/or cutting health programs. These actions have a disproportionate impact on problem gamblers.

H.R. 2334, the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act:

- **Clarifies** that problem gambling is a disorder covered by the Public Health Service Act and designates the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as the lead agency on problem gambling.

SAMHSA already provides problem gambling training and technical assistance to states using their discretionary authority. Such programs to prevent and treat gambling problems are obviously the most ethical and effective means to reduce the financial cost and emotional trauma to individuals, families and communities and improve family relationships, financial health and other key social indicators. Recent studies show conclusively that every **\$1** spent on gambling addiction services **saves more than \$2 dollars in social costs**, mainly health and criminal justice related.

The Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act had **73 bipartisan House** and **5 bipartisan Senate sponsors** in the 111th Congress.

The National Council on Problem Gambling is the national advocate for programs and services to assist problem gamblers and their families. NCPG was founded in 1972 and is a non-partisan, non-profit foundation that is neutral on gambling. NCPG and its 35 state affiliate chapters provide the majority of services for problem gamblers and their families.

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