

H.R. 2906 and the Impact of Problem Gambling

September 17, 2009

Keith Whyte, Executive Director, NCPG

Tim Christensen, President, APGSA

Chuck Maurer, Ph.D., President-elect, NCPG

Mike R.

Donna Z.



National Council
on Problem Gambling

About NCPG

- The national ADVOCATE for programs and services to assist problem gamblers and their families.
- Founded in 1972.
- NEUTRAL on legalized gambling.
- National grassroots non-profit with chapters in 35 of 50 states.
- Work with government, gaming industry & community.



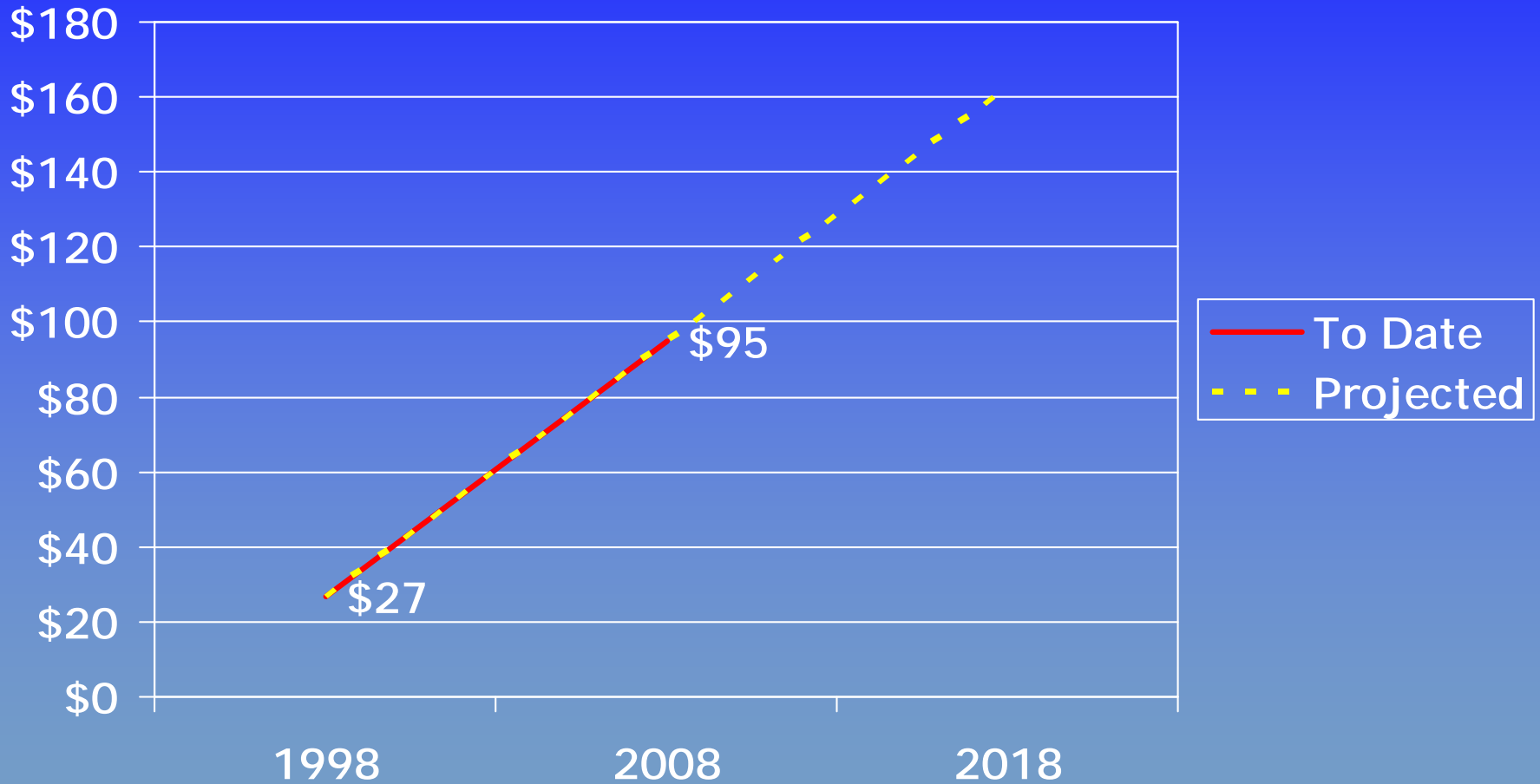
National Council
on Problem Gambling

National Participation

- 85% of American adults have gambled at least once:
 - 65% at least once in past year;
 - 30% at least once in past month;
 - 15% at least once in past week.
 - 2-3% meet criteria for a gambling problem.
- In addition to individual financial, emotional and physical harm, problem gamblers generate costs for society—crime, bankruptcy, divorce, etc...
- U.S. National Gambling Impact Study Commission:
 - \$1,200 social costs per adult pathological gambler.
 - \$715 social costs per adult problem gambler.
- 2008 social cost estimate: **\$6.7 billion.**



Legal Gambling Revenue (\$billions)



Impact of Problem Gambling on State Health Agencies

Tim Christensen

President, Association of Problem
Gambling Service Administrators

Chair, Federal Affairs Committee,
National Council on Problem Gambling



National Council
on Problem Gambling

Current Status of Public Efforts

- APGSA survey of 50 states
 - 2001 – 13 states with problem gambling funding
 - 2008 – 34 states with problem gambling funding
- Per capita funding of PG services
 - Range of <\$0.01 to \$1.65
 - CA – Per capita gambling revenue= \$228
 - Per Capita problem gambling allocation=\$0.08
- SAMHSA 32 states with requests from the States to be designated as a Federal lead



Section 3: SAMHSA Authorities

- Designates Federal lead
- Improve coordination and collaboration among states
- Synergistic benefit from coordinated approaches
- Provide technical assistance and guidance to states



Section 4: Public Awareness

- Model after other successful public health initiatives
- Create common themes, look and feel to augment existing state and local community efforts
- Early identification and intervention key to reducing harm
- National Problem Gambling Awareness Week



Section 5: Research

- States unable to fund meaningful research independently
- Encourages collaboration between Universities and existing programs to identify policies and services that produce positive outcomes
- Supports the goal of improving efficiency and effectiveness of problem gambling services



Section 6: Treatment

- Only 24 states provide any funding for problem gambling treatment
- Encourages public/private partnerships to meet identified needs
- Intended to fill gaps in services, not supplant existing efforts
- Flexibility in service design and delivery



Summary

- Common sense solution to identified needs
- Fills gaps in policy and programs only the Federal government can address
- Expands and supports existing programs which have demonstrated effectiveness
- Supported by numerous national, state and local organizations.



Contact Information

Tim Christensen

President, Association of Problem Gambling
Service Administrators

Chair, Federal Affairs Committee, National
Council on Problem Gambling

tchristensen@problemgambling.az.gov

602-266-8299, ext. 352



National Council
on Problem Gambling