



National Council on Problem Gambling

October 1, 2009

The Honorable James Moran
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Moran:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to offer our strong support for H.R. 2906, the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act of 2009. We share your goals of preventing and treating gambling addiction by authorizing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to address problem gambling and appropriating \$71 million for grants to state health agencies, tribes, universities and non-profits to support problem gambling prevention, treatment and research programs.

Gambling addictions have particularly adverse impacts on youth, seniors and other vulnerable groups. The Act will boost existing efforts and alleviate pressure on state agencies and local non-profits who daily deal with the devastating consequences of this disorder. There are a lot of efforts at the state level to legalize or liberalize various forms of gambling in order to patch holes in government budgets. Though this might solve some of the fiscal problems it also may exacerbate the challenges that some people have in avoiding the pitfalls posed by excessive gambling. This legislation will provide the first-ever Federal support for programs at the state level that currently strain to handle the devastating consequences of this addiction—from bankruptcy, divorce, job loss, incarceration, depression and despair to a high rate of suicidal behavior.

H.R. 2906 focuses on integrating problem gambling services into the Federal health agencies and supporting existing state-based programs to help problem gamblers and their families. The bill does not expand, restrict or tax gambling. This common-sense legislation will have a significant positive impact in your district, across the state and throughout the country.

Once again we applaud you for introducing this important legislation and look forward to working with you to secure its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Roberts', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Bruce Roberts
President, National Council on Problem Gambling

Organizations Supporting H.R. 2906, the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act

As of 10/1/09:

A Chance to Change Foundation-Oklahoma City
Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers of New York State, Inc.
Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services of Southeast Iowa
American Academy of Clinical Psychiatrists
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Arizona Council on Compulsive Gambling
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators
Bridgeway Center, Inc.
California Council on Problem Gambling
Center for Addiction and Relationship Recovery
Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research, University of Minnesota Medical School
Center for Clinical Social Work
Center for Excellence in Prevention and Treatment of Pathological Gambling, Laval University
Center for Therapeutic Interventions-Oklahoma
Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling
Connecticut Mental Health Center
Connecticut Prevention Network
Council On Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana
Councils on Addiction of New York State
Delaware Council on Gambling Problems
DePaul's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Rochester Area
Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling
Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling
Friends of SAMHSA
Gambling Studies Program, University of California-Los Angeles
Illinois Council on Problem Gambling
Indiana Council on Problem Gambling
Institute for Gambling Education and Research, University of Memphis
International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High Risk Behaviors, McGill University
Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Jim Taliferro Community Mental Health Center-Oklahoma
Kansas Coalition on Compulsive Gambling
Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling
Kentucky Mental Health Coalition
Las Vegas Problem Gambling Center
Life Crisis Services-Missouri
Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling
Maine Council on Problem Gambling
Maryland Council on Problem Gambling
Massachusetts Council of Human Services Providers
Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
Miami Coalition for a Safe, Healthy and Drug Free Community
Michigan Association on Problem Gambling
Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism
Minnesota State Advisory Council on Mental Health

Mississippi Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling
Missouri Association of Community Task Forces-ACT Missouri
Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns
Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Montana Council on Problem Gambling
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling
Nevada Council on Problem Gambling
Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey
New Jersey School Counselors Association
New Mexico Council on Problem Gambling
New York Council on Problem Gambling
North Carolina Council on Problem Gambling
Northstar Problem Gambling Alliance
Ohio Council on Problem Gambling
Ohio School Counselor Association
Oklahoma Association for Problem and Compulsive Gambling
One Sky Center-the American Indian/Alaska Native National Resource Center for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Oregon Gambling Addiction Treatment Foundation
Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania
Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado
Problem Gambling Treatment Program, University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Provident, Inc.-St. Louis
Reno Problem Gambling Center
Rhode Island Council on Problem Gambling
Rutgers University Center for Gambling Studies
South Florida Coalition Alliance
Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling
The Mental Health Center-Oklahoma
Vermont Council on Problem Gambling
West Virginia Council on Problem Gambling
Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling