

The POINTS Act

Providing Opportunities for Individuals In
Need of Treatment & Support Act



NCPG
National Council on Problem Gambling

A Federal Response to Gambling Addiction

Nearly 20 million American adults (8%) report experiencing at least one indicator of problematic gambling behavior “many times” in the past year. Gambling disorder is recognized as an addictive disorder in the DSM-5. Yet unlike alcohol or drug addiction, there is no dedicated federal funding for gambling addiction treatment or research, despite estimated annual social costs of \$14 billion.

The POINTS Act would reallocate one-third of the existing federal excise tax on sports wagers (0.25% of handle) to support prevention, treatment, and research. The bill would generate an estimated \$100 million annually without raising or creating new taxes. Federal sports wagering excise tax revenue exceeded \$150 million in FY2024 and is estimated to reach \$300 million in FY2025.

What the POINTS Act Does



Recognizes Gambling Addiction in Federal Law

Amends the Public Health Service Act to include gambling addiction alongside other substance use and mental health disorders, consistent with the DSM-5 classification of gambling disorder.



Establishes a Federal Grant Program

Creates a competitive grant program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for states, Indian Tribes, and Tribal Organizations.



Prioritizes High-Risk Populations

Directs funding toward populations at elevated risk of gambling harm, including youth, men, veterans, and Native American communities.



Supports Prevention Programs

Funds statewide and community-based initiatives that increase public awareness and educate individuals about the risks of gambling.



Expands Early Intervention

Supports training for healthcare providers and community leaders to implement Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for gambling-related harm.



Strengthens Treatment and Recovery Services

Provides funding for outpatient treatment, telehealth services, peer recovery support such as Gamblers Anonymous, and the operation of 24/7 problem gambling helplines.

REALLOCATES

1/3

of the existing federal excise tax on sports wagers to address gambling addiction.

**\$100
MILLION
PER YEAR**

Estimated annual funding for prevention, screening, intervention, and treatment of problem gambling.

**NO NEW
TAXES**

The bill uses existing federal sports betting tax revenue, no new taxes are created.

**Urge
Congress
to Act**

Contact your Member of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor the POINTS Act.

Learn more and show
your support at

pointsact.org

Problem Gambling

A Growing Public Health Issue



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What is Problem Gambling?

Problem gambling, sometimes called gambling addiction or gambling disorder, occurs when gambling behavior causes harm to a person or their family and interferes with daily life. Anyone who gambles can be at risk of developing a problem.

Gambling disorder is recognized by the American Psychiatric Association in the DSM-5 as a clinical behavioral health condition.

Problem Gambling in the United States

\$14 BILLION ANNUALLY

Untreated problem gambling is estimated to cost the United States through healthcare expenses, bankruptcy, crime, and lost productivity.³

2.5 MILLION

U.S. adults are estimated to meet the criteria for severe gambling problem in a given year. Another 5-8 Million meet the criteria for mild or moderate gambling problems.¹

8% OF AMERICAN ADULTS

almost 20 million people, reported experiencing at least one indicator of problematic gambling behavior "many times" in the past year.⁸

The Growing Impact of Problem Gambling

✓ Higher-Risk Populations:

Young men, servicemembers and veterans, and Native American communities experience higher rates of gambling problems.^{1,2}

✓ Elevated Suicide Risk:

People with gambling problems face up to 15 times higher risk of suicide attempts.⁵

✓ Negative Family Impact:

82% of affected families experience harm, including divorce, social isolation, and increased mental health risks for children.^{6,7}

✓ Increased Depression:

Individuals with gambling problems experience 3 times higher rates of depression.⁹

✓ Co-Occurring Alcohol Use Disorder:

Nearly two-thirds of people with gambling problems also experience an alcohol use disorder.¹⁰

✓ Financial Strain:

1 in 5 individuals with gambling problems ultimately files for bankruptcy.⁹

Addressing gambling addiction requires sustained federal investment in prevention, screening, and treatment to ensure communities across the country have access to the resources they need.

Learn more about problem gambling at www.pointsact.org

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