

February 15, 2013

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The Honorable Carolyn Tomei, Chair And Committee Members House Human Services and Housing Committee Oregon State Legislature

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling I would like to again express our appreciation for the opportunity to testify before the committee on issues related to problem gambling in Oregon.

The Council has not had time to meet to develop a formal opinion on the specifics within the three lottery bills. However, the Council supports programs that are effective in protecting the health of Oregonians related to the management of problem gambling and responsible gambling programs. The Council's provides this support for Oregon through working to achieve these goals:

Platform for Collaboration

The Council provides a place for Collaboration among all the stake holders – State; Treatment and Prevention Providers; Researchers; Gaming Industry; and, Consumers and their Families. This is essential to establish and maintain the highest quality of treatment and prevention opportunities. This collaboration has served Oregon well.

Be a Reliable Resource

Maintain a library of up-to-date information to inform the citizens of Oregon and its decision and policy makers on the issues relevant to gaming management and problem gambling management in Oregon.

The Council is currently trying to obtain funding to conduct an updated prevalence study, the last conducted in 2006 and to research and document best and evidenced-based practices from around the globe as models for Oregon to consider.

Monitor and Report on Effectiveness of Problem Gambling Services
Assess the availability and effectiveness of treatment and prevention efforts.
Ensure the State is meeting reasonable levels of treatment with a goal of

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providing effective treatment to a minimum of three percent each year for those we estimate to be suffering with problem or pathological gambling and their families.

Promote Public Education

Monitor and seek to improve the level of awareness of treatment services available to Oregonians. Also monitor and seek to increase the percentage of Oregonians who set time and budget limits when they gamble.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written testimony before the House Human Services and Housing Committee.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas L. Moore, PhD