



TO: The Honorable Jeff Barker, House Committee on Business and Labor
FROM: Jeff Marotta, Ph.D., ICGC-II
DATE: February 12, 2020
SUBJECT: HB 4153 – Prohibits Oregon State Lottery from offering games playable via mobile phone, personal computer or other personal electronic device, except for live sports betting and certain multistate numbers drawing games.

Chair Jeff Barker and members of the committee, my name is Jeff Marotta. I am a Senior Consultant for Problem Gambling Solutions, I am on the Board of Directors for Cascadia Whole Health Care and for the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling, I was the former administrator of the Oregon Health Authority's problem gambling programs, and founder of Voices of Problem Gambling Recovery. As a person deeply involved in Oregon's efforts to improve public health, I am pleased to speak with you today about HB 4153.

HB 4153 is a critically important bill. It rights a wrong in how groundbreaking gambling policy change occurred in Oregon. Oregon's legalized gambling landscape was significantly altered with the advent of state supported online wagering. This occurred without legislative approval or through public referendum. HB4153 sets limits and prevents further expansion of mobile wagers without first vetting proposals within the halls of this chamber and acquiring legislative approval.

Legalized online wagering presents social and economic risks to Oregon. Consider this:

- Higher rates of disordered gambling have been found amongst Internet as compared to land-based gamblers.¹
- Legalized internet gambling is expected to increase the number of Oregonians who gamble on a regular basis thereby increase problem gambling incidence rates.²
- A recent study found that about 1 in every 60 Oregon Department of Corrections inmates reported their current incarceration was "primarily" due to gambling. This data suggests that problem gambling related imprisonments account for at least \$10 million a year in DOC related custody costs with millions of dollars more in other costs related to our criminal justice system.³
- Effective April 14 of this year, the British Government is banning the practice of permitting credit wagering due in part to research that shows that 22% of online gamblers using credit cards are problem gamblers.⁴ Amending HB 4153 to follow the United Kingdom's lead is prudent and highly recommended.

The social and economic risks associated with legalized internet gambling are real. Oregonians deserve the right for their elected representatives to debate and create critical policies that impact Oregon's economic and public health. This bill, with Representative Evan's proposed amendment, will put a stop to the undemocratic expansion of online gambling and require any future online expansion proposals to first be vetted and approved by our citizens or citizen representatives in the Oregon legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some knowledge and provide the above viewpoints.

¹ Gainsbury, S. M., Russell, A., Wood, R., Hing, N., & Blaszczynski, A. (2015). How risky is Internet gambling? A comparison of subgroups of Internet gamblers based on problem gambling status. *New media & society*, 17(6), 861-879.

² <https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2019/10/18/opinion-what-the-oregon-lottery-s-sports-betting.html>

³ Marotta, Coe, and Highberger (manuscript in preparation). Problem gambling among incarcerated adults entering the Oregon Department of Corrections.

⁴ <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news-action-and-statistics/news/gambling-on-credit-cards-to-be-banned-from-april-2020>