

TO: The Honorable Jeff Barker, House Committee on Business and Labor

FROM: David Elsbernd

DATE: February 12, 2020

SUBJECT: HB 4057 – Prohibits Oregon State Lottery from offering games based on outcomes of sporting events organized by, sponsored by or played in connection with post-secondary institutions of education.

Dear Chair Barker and members of the committee, I am testifying in support of HB 4057.

There are many reasons to oppose lottery games based on college sports. But I'd like to highlight one in particular.

There is a long history of sporting events being thrown for financial benefit. Any cursory search of the web will expose a multitude of soccer games which have been purported to have been thrown. Closer to home, there have been scandals involving pro sports in the USA, including an NBA referee who went to prison for fixing games.

While it is unlikely that a Portland Trailblazer would ever throw a game to make a little side hustle, for a poor college student the lure of a big payday may be hard to resist if they are ever approached.

In summary:

- Introducing college sports betting threatens the integrity of the sport.
- Sports betting which is available on a collegiate level sends the wrong message to students.
- Student athletes already are under pressure due to their peripheral awareness of others who informally gamble on their performance. State sponsored gambling will only make this much worse.

I sincerely hope you support this measure, because lottery based collegiate gambling is not a good idea.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Elsbernd

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