



April 11, 2013

OREGON COUNCIL The Honorable Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

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of Grand Ronde

Steve McCoid
Oregon Restaurant & Hotel
Association

Executive Director
Thomas L. Moore, PhD

RE: April 11, 2013 Public Hearing for HB 2355 A

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of HB 2355 A.

The Oregon Council on Problem Gambling most strongly supports the need to ensure Problem Gambling Services, within the Addictions and Mental Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority, are provided consistent, stable funding for treatment and prevention services at a minimum of the one percent of net Lottery proceeds.

Between 70,000 to 80,000 Oregonian adults experience serious problems related to problem and pathological gambling. Estimates of the annual social cost to Oregon are approximately \$470 million.

Several times since 1995, when PGS was implemented statewide, funding was severely cut. Each time a cut occurred services to Oregonians were curtailed, the number of citizens seeking treatment dropped, and the number of service providers (counselors and therapists) was reduced. When adequate funding was eventually restored, capacity was not immediately available due to the loss of infrastructure in the provider organizations.

Implementation of HB 2355 A will provided much needed stability to Problem Gambling Services and the availability of effective treatment for Oregonians.

It is with regret that I cannot provide this testimony in person as I must attend an out of state funeral.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Moore, PhD

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NEED HELP? 1-877-MYLIMIT

The Oregon Affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling

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