



February 20, 2014

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
And Committee Members
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair

Carole Hardy
Member at Large

Secretary

Jeffery Marotta, PhD
Member at Large

Treasurer

Sharon Williams
CAGC, CADCI
Member at Large

Members

Andrew Cartmill, CPS
Washington County
Prevention/Outreach Services

Nicole Corbin
LPC, CAGC II, CADCI
Problem Gambling Services
State of Oregon

Gordon Fultz
Association of
Oregon Counties

Justin Martin
Confederated Tribes
of Grand Ronde

Steve McCoid
Oregon Restaurant & Hotel
Association

RE: HB 4028 A

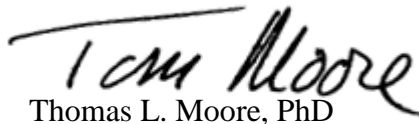
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling I would like to express our appreciation for the work you and your committee members are doing to support the safety and treatment needs of individuals and families regarding disordered gambling.

The Council supports this bill and the need for funding to routinely, regularly, and widely promote problem gambling prevention and treatment information to the citizens of Oregon through a variety of media sources. The recent loss of funding for proven effective media campaigns appears to have had a significant, direct negative impact on the numbers of citizens with gambling related problems seeking treatment.

Media campaigns to promote and encourage enrollment in treatment may seem conceptually foreign to those familiar with traditional, state funded addiction and mental health programs where a large portion of clients are mandated by the criminal justice system or referred through other state funded social programs. This is not the case for problem gambling treatment programs. The main way for the public, including those in need of treatment, to acquire problem gambling prevention and treatment information is through general media outlets. Only with a better informed public can we intervene early, reduce human suffering, and save state dollars before problems reach a severity where the criminal justice service system becomes involved.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written testimony with apology for having conflicting engagements and not being able to present in person.

Respectfully,


Thomas L. Moore, PhD

Executive Director

Thomas L. Moore, PhD