



February 6, 2015

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair

Carole Hardy
Member at Large

Secretary

Jeffrey Marotta, PhD
Member at Large

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and
Lodging Association

Roger Nyquist
County Commission Chair
Linn County Oregon

Stacy Shaw
The Oregon Lottery

Executive Director

Thomas L. Moore, PhD

RE: HB 2458 Permits playing of social games, poker and poker tournaments

The Oregon Council on Problem Gambling appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2458. The Council's purpose is to promote the health of Oregonians by supporting efforts to minimize gambling related harm. The Council has no opinion on the moralistic value of gambling. The Council is a 501 (c) 3 established in 1996 and is an Affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling.

The Council opposes this legislation as written for the following reasons:

- I. In section 3. ORS 167.117, item (7) (e) excludes *poker games or poker tournaments* from the definition of gambling. This is inconsistent with the common definition of gambling: *Gambling is the wagering of money or something of material value (referred to as "the stakes") on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money and/or material goods*; and is also inconsistent with the definition of a *person who gambles* as found in Section 3, item (16) (a) of the Bill.

It is the Council's position that this exclusion be removed.

- II. Within this Bill there are no provisions for exclusion of minors from engaging in gambling activities in these establishments. Disordered gambling is a public health concern and research demonstrates that the earlier individuals engage in gambling the greater the risk of developing problems with gambling. The State for the Lottery and Tribal Casinos have taken a responsible position by restricting minors from engaging in all forms of gambling in their establishments.

It is the Council's position that an age restriction to exclude individuals under the age of 18 from engaging in gambling activities be added to this Bill

- III. Enactment of this Bill would expand gambling opportunities and subsequently increase the opportunity for more Oregonians to experience problems with gambling. Regulation and licensing of establishments under

this Bill falls to cities and counties and can be inconsistent. Further, there are no requirements for operators to support responsible gambling activities.

It is the Council's position that operators be required to post readily accessible problem gambling prevention materials, including as a minimum, the Problem Gambling Services Helpline contact information and warning signs of problem gambling.

Again, we appreciate this opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carole Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Carole Hardy
Chair