



Voices of Problem Gambling Recovery

Supports HB 4057

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.

VPGR joins the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) opposition to all forms of legal and illegal collegial sports wagering, which has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community.

- **Creating a regulated collegiate sports betting market does not mitigate problems with black market wagering, it amplifies the problems.**
 - Legalized collegiate sports betting greatly contributes to the normalization of betting on sports. Contributes to the belief that if our state sanctions and operates collegiate sports betting then it must be acceptable, normal, and safe.¹ This belief is dangerous to our youth.
 - Advertising and marketing of sports betting will dramatically increase with legalized markets; as more competitors are in the market, the more aggressive marketing will become.
 - Just as the legalization of marijuana has resulted in increased usage², so shall the legalization of collegiate sports betting. This will result in higher levels of problem gambling.
- **Places college athletes at-risk**
 - Student-athletes are especially vulnerable to manipulation because of their accessibility, age and typically limited financial resources.
 - If student-athletes are caught gambling they could lose their scholarships, their opportunities to play, and be at high-risk for dropping out of college.
- **Places intercollegiate sports at-risk which can have negative economic impacts in Oregon.**
 - Gambling by athletes as a major threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics.³
 - Oregon intercollegiate athletics brings economic value to our state. If our programs are tarnished and sanctioned this economically hurts Oregon.
- **Places college aged students at-risk**
 - College and university students seem to have the highest rates of problem and pathological gambling compared to the general population.⁴
 - Rates of gambling and problem gambling are anticipated to increase as gambling on campus becomes normalized through the legalization of collegiate sports betting.

¹ Nyemcsok, C., Thomas, S. L., Bestman, A., Pitt, H., Daube, M., & Cassidy, R. (2018). Young people's recall and perceptions of gambling advertising and intentions to gamble on sport. *Journal of behavioral addictions*, 7(4), 1068-1078.

² Stormshak, E. A., Caruthers, A. S., Gau, J. M., & Winter, C. (2019). The impact of recreational marijuana legalization on rates of use and behavior: A 10-year comparison of two cohorts from high school to young adulthood. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*.

³ Robb, H. M. (2019). Hedge Your Bets: How the Legalization of Sports Betting Could Be the Downfall of Intercollegiate Sports. *W. Va. L. Rev.*, 122, 351.

⁴ Nowak, D. E. (2018). A meta-analytical synthesis and examination of pathological and problem gambling rates and associated moderators among college students, 1987–2016. *Journal of gambling studies*, 34(2), 465-498.