



February 18, 2020

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair House Committee on Revenue  
Representative Pam Marsh, Vice-Chair House Committee on Revenue  
Representative E. Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair House Committee on Revenue

RE: Support for HB 4153

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Marsh and Reschke, members of the committee,

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH) is the statewide association of over 40 providers delivering treatment for substance use disorders, gambling addiction, and mental illness.

OCBH's membership includes the problem gambling treatment providers who serve individuals seeking help for gambling addiction. With the release of the Scoreboard App came unfettered access to mobile gambling. Mobile gambling allows individuals to gamble with rapid speed and in isolation, two factors we know to exacerbate program gambling disorders.

We also know:

- Problem gambling disorders are more common among internet-based gamblers compared to land-based gamblers.
- One in every 60 individuals in the Oregon Department of Corrections reported their current incarceration was “primarily” due to gambling.

In our work serving individuals with gambling addictions, we have developed a clear understanding that increased access to gambling increases problem gambling rates. This, in turn, results in downstream costs to our healthcare and corrections systems.

Scoreboard App games dramatically increase access to gambling. Therefore, we are supportive of this policy which seeks to curtail access.

We urge your passage of HB 4153.

Thank you,

Heather Jefferis, MA  
Executive Director  
Oregon Council For Behavioral Health