



3/9/21

To: House Committee on General Government
From: Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH)
Re: Support for HB 3078

Chair Wilde, Vice Chairs Leif and Lively, Members of the Committee,

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH) is the statewide association of over 50 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 problem 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 3078.

Thank you,

Heather Jefferis MA
Executive Director
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health