

Elizabeth Lanza
Director of Compulsive & Problem Gambling
Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development
Committee
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Good morning Senator Ward, Senator Wiley and Members of the Committee, my name is Liz Lanza and I serve as the Board's Director of Compulsive and Problem Gaming.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today regarding iGaming and problem gambling.

In April 2012, the National Council on Problem Gambling ("Council") produced a seven page document outlining steps policy makers, regulators and operators should take when passing online gambling legislation and when introducing iGaming to customers. The eight standards outlined by the Council give a brief synopsis of what lawmakers and regulators can do to ensure online gambling laws protect the citizens of this Commonwealth. I have provided a copy of these standards to each of you.

Legalizing online gambling will bring the access of gambling to more individuals and will therefore create the opportunity for more individuals to become addicted. On the other hand, legalizing iGaming will allow for regulation of an industry that is currently unregulated and which offers no protections to patrons.

If Internet gaming is to be established as a legal and regulated activity in Pennsylvania, it is important to allow online players the ability to make

informed decisions regarding their gambling whether through legislation or regulation. As stated in the Council's Internet Responsible Gambling Standards, each player should have access to their gambling history, as well as the ability to limit their gambling by setting boundaries on the time and amount spent on online gambling.

The Board will continue to offer its self-exclusion tool to those who gamble within a casino and, if iGaming legislation is passed, to those who gamble online. As we did when creating our current program, the Office of Compulsive and Problem Gambling will continue to research and implement best practices in use in other jurisdictions when creating and maintaining iGaming self-exclusion.

Currently, the monies set aside within the Gaming Act to combat gambling addiction are directed to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Department of Health and are not under the Gaming Control Board's oversight. For this reason, it is difficult for me to say how much should be set aside for online gambling, and therefore I will yield comment on this topic to Ken (Martz).

However, I do urge you to keep in mind when deciding on problem gambling funding that the addition of any type of gambling will allow another avenue for an individual to become addicted. For this reason, if iGaming legislation is passed, you can expect a likely increase in problem gambling prevalence. The legislature should ensure that the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and each Single County Authority has adequate funding to assist those in need.

The Board's Office of Compulsive and Problem Gambling supports and will continue to work with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the

Pennsylvania Council on Compulsive Gambling to make certain that we assist those citizens who have a gambling disorder and ensure that these individuals and their loved ones receive the support they need.

Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss this important issue.