

Rogers, Nick

From: Joan Masot <jmasot@advocacyunlimited.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:19 PM
To: gltestimony
Subject: S.B. # 192 AN ACT CONCERNING DAILY FANTASY SPORTS

Testimony to General Law Committee
S.B. No. 192 AN ACT CONCERNING DAILY FANTASY SPORTS
March 16, 2016
Joanie Masot Southington, CT

Respective members of the General Law Committee, My name is Joanie Masot and I am a resident and registered voter of Southington, Connecticut.

I am writing this testimony in opposition to S.B. #192 AN ACT CONCERNING DAILY FANTASY SPORTS. My very first concern is the substitution in this bill as the bill was proposed with the prohibition of any persons under the age of 21. (Section 1) The bill now has been changed to age 18. This is a huge issue for our youth in Connecticut. At the age of 18 you are most likely just graduating high school and pursuing going to college for further education. This is such an easy target for our young people who are subjected to gambling in all college settings. I understand they can gamble any way they chose but why would our state want to make it easier for them at the age of 18? You cannot even go to the casinos in Connecticut to gamble unless you are 21 years old.

Also, as a person in recovery from problem gambling now for 13 years I have to ask about section (6) protections for problem gamblers. What exactly does that mean? Will the state be receiving revenue from this bill if passed? Will any of this revenue be given to the Chronic Gambler's Treatment fund? That section is a wide open statement. What type of protection does that mean?

We, the State of Connecticut seemed to be expanding the gambling industry rapidly. We have the negotiations on the table for a new casino and pretty much a done deal, Keno being rolled out soon and now making daily fantasy sports legal too?

I understand from reading the Draft Kings testimonies that they state that there are already hundreds of thousands Connecticut residents participating in daily fantasy sports but does that make it consciously right to legalize it? Also, I disagree with the statement that fantasy sports do NOT constitute gambling. The below information is what I copied from the Draft Kings website. NBA GIANT \$5 Double Up \$50,000 Guaranteed Entry: \$5 Entries: 7422/11.3K Prizes: \$50,000 FPPs: 20 Live In: 03:45:21 03/16 7:00 PM EST Contest Details Summary This 11363-player contest features \$50,000.00 in total prizes and pays out the top 5000 finishing positions. First place wins \$10.00. So if it is stated that daily fantasy sports is NOT gambling or they don't pay out money then why does the above state \$50,000.00 Guaranteed.

Nelson Rose, Gambling Law expert says, "Calling it video lottery terminals is more acceptable than slot machines. If fantasy sports is gambling, calling it fantasy sports makes it more acceptable than sports betting." "It is an entertainment product, it is not gambling." stated by FanDuel. "The daily fantasy sports industry has soared in popularity recently, with promises of payouts ranging from hundreds to millions of dollars." (Quoted from USA Today article Jan. 2015)

In my opinion and from what I did while in action and witnessed during my gambling addiction, this is gambling and not a contest. Daily fantasy sports just allows our problem gamblers to hide their gambling to a higher level. We as providers in Connecticut for Problem Gamblers will have no way of knowing who is participating in daily fantasy sports and have no way of offering them services. I urge you please from a gambling addict in recovery and an employee of Advocacy Unlimited as the Coordinator of Problem Gambling Services to stop and take a closer look at this bill and obtain more critical information on this bill before placing your vote.

Thank you for allowing me to state my concerns on this bill and thank you for listening.