

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL on
**PROBLEM
GAMBLING**

www.ccpvg.org

The Mission of the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling is to reduce the prevalence and impact of problem gambling on individuals, families, and society.

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Public Testimony: S.B. No. 192(RAISED) An Act Concerning Daily Fantasy Sports

Date: March 3, 2016

Presented By: Tamara L. Petro, MPH, Executive Director
CT Council on Problem on Gambling, Inc. (CCPG)

Presented To: Honorable Members of the Committee on General Law

Amend SB 192 to Create a Responsible Gambling Advisory Council

Good morning, Members of the Committee, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Tamara Petro, and I am the Director of the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG). We are here for Raised SB 192.

The Council's mission is to reduce the prevalence and impact of problem and disordered gambling on individuals, families, and society. As an affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling, we are neither for nor against legalized gambling. We are here to represent the Council's main concerns, and to be a voice for the issues of prevention for problem gamblers and their families. Protection of these persons and vulnerable groups, including youth and young adults, must be considered to be a responsibility of the State when making legislative decisions.

We are neutral in the legalization of gambling, but we do however differ in that the bill language states these are not contests of chance. As there are elements of play that most certainly are chance, such as player performance or acts of nature, our and our National Council's stance is that this negates the definition of pure skill. Therefore, we are raising concerns of language regarding protections and responsible play guidelines.

That being said, our National Council is working at the federal level and with other states such as Virginia and Florida at present, to ensure that "C.A.R.E." Responsible Play Guidelines are included, to provide a minimum set of consumer protections standards to hold the industry accountable, and for which the DCP would oversee. C.A.R.E. stands for Consumer Protection, Age & Identity verification, Responsible Play Guidelines, and Exclusion. Each of these further detail protections that we feel are vague in this raised bill. We would ask that these standards be introduced as part of any bill language if going forward.

This bill largely represents preparedness for a substantial expansion if CT legalizes daily fantasy sports, which is a very lucrative, multi-billion dollar business. We propose that the new era of gambling in CT necessitates a sustainable framework for Responsible Gambling and consumer protections, and that the State has a responsibility to provide this while looking to expanded gambling for revenue.

As there is also no mention of funding in SB 192, we ask that a fixed percentage of licensing and renewal fees and revenues be allocated to the state, as with other current gambling industries. We also ask that ten percent (10%) of these funds be responsibly channeled into the Chronic Gamblers Treatment Fund (established by the legislature, as currently funded by the Lottery and Pari-mutuel industry). Any new gambling legislation should *always* provide for funds established for prevention and treatment of gambling addiction.

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As the Council has also testified recently, we are already advocating for the establishment of a Responsible Gambling Advisory Council under the Department of Consumer Protection, to better inform responsible gambling standards and practices. In addition to the C.A.R.E. standards above, there would also be specific, new areas to address such as truthful advertising, player education, corporate training and computer programming procedures. This Advisory Council would include the CT Council on Problem Gambling and key state departments that represent affected populations for gambling disorder, and would be able to inform decision making and public programs.

Further, we are recommending that funding equal to three-percent (3%) of any Yearly Gross Daily Fantasy Sports Revenues and also contribute to the funding of the Responsible Gambling Advisory Council to establish the program for the promotion of responsible gambling in the state. If established, the Advisory Council would inform and guide the State in these national C.A.R.E. Responsible Play Guidelines as well as to inform a statewide impact study conducted for problem specific to daily fantasy sports (which we ask be done after one year of implementation). The Council would guide the statewide Responsible Gambling and educational services designed to increase awareness of and reduce the prevalence of problem gambling.

An expansion of gambling by introducing Daily Fantasy Sports will correlate to an increase in problem and underage gambling in Connecticut. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, as the current prevalence rate is 2.2%, then the rate of problem gambling due to daily fantasy sports is anticipated to be at least that amount or possibly greater, due to the player demographics who are of higher risk groups (i.e., males, sports enthusiasts). This is uncharted gambling territory with unknown consequences in our State, and we ask the Committee to ensure protections and standards be enacted proactively. We have one chance to do this properly.

Again, I want to thank the Committee Chairs and the entire Committee for the opportunity to speak today.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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Responsible Gambling Advisory Council.

(a) There is established, within the Department of Consumer Protection, a

Responsible Gambling Advisory Council which shall consist of the following Seventeen (17) members

- Two members who shall be the designee of the Governor
- Two members who shall be the designee of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection
- One member who shall be the designee of the Senate President Pro Tempore
- One member who shall be the designee of the Senate Minority Leader
- One member who shall be the designee of the Speaker of the House
- One member who shall be the designee of the House Minority Leader
- One member who shall be the designee of the Commissioner on Aging
- One member who shall be the designee of the Commissioner of Children and Families
- One member who shall be the designee of the Commissioner of Corrections
- One member who shall be the designee of the Commissioner of DMHAS
- One member who shall be the designee of the Commissioner of Public Health
- One member who shall be the designee of the CT Council on Problem Gambling.
- One member who shall be the designee of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe
- One member who shall be the designee of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut

The Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection shall appoint a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among the members of the council. Members shall serve for a term of three years or until their successors are appointed, whichever is later. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for the position which has become vacant. Members of the council shall not be compensated for their services. Any council member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from office.

(b) The advisory council shall:

- meet monthly, and at other times at the call of the Chairperson
- promote Responsible Gambling awareness, education, and prevention
- implement programs and services to improve responsible gambling practices,
- Monitor Responsible Gambling practices as impacted by legalized gambling in the state,
- study additional issues and from time to time issue reports on matters related to responsible gambling

(c) The Responsible Gambling Advisory Council shall establish a program for the promotion of responsible gambling in the state. The program shall provide prevention and educational services designed to increase awareness of and reduce the prevalence of problem gambling. The Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection may enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations to assist in providing the program of services as established by the Council, provided not less than thirty-five percent of the amount received pursuant to subsection (e) of this section shall be set aside for a contract with the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling.

(d) The CT Council on Problem Gambling shall provide administrative and operational support services to the Responsible Gambling Advisory Council.

(e) The program established by subsection (c) of this section shall be funded by a portion of the 5% of the Chronic Gamblers Fund already allocated to the CT Council on Problem Gambling.

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Responsible Gambling: 2016 Legislative Initiatives

Awareness

Point-of-sale Availability Facts ~ Access ~ Help Co-occurring Advertising TV / Radio / Billboards

Education

Responsible Gambling Local Program Teams State Conference on Problem Gambling

Prevention

Community-based Education & Training 24 hour Live Gambling Helpline

Responsible Gambling Advisory Council

Collaboration ~ Implementation ~ Sustainability

- * Within the Gaming Division of the Department of Consumer Protection
- * Inclusive Representation: CT Council on Problem Gambling, Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Dept Aging, DMHAS, Corrections, Public Health, DCF, Governor, DCP & Consumers
- * Utilize existing funding of the 5% of the Chronic Gamblers Fund

Accountable ~ Transparent ~ Responsive

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The Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling was founded in 1980, becoming the first affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling. CCPG is currently funded by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribal Nation. Each tribe supports CCPG's efforts to provide prevention, education, awareness, advocacy and research, as well as the State's Problem Gambling Helpline. Additional funding is provided by the CT Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services-Problem Gambling Services through the Chronic Gamblers Treatment Fund (supported by the CT Lottery Corp and the Pari-Mutuel Industry), which enhances the effectiveness of CCPG programs and services to address problem gambling in the state.

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