



Testimony to the
Public Safety and Security Committee Hearing Raised Bill No. 7331: ACT CONCERNING SPORTS
WAGERING IN THE STATE
March 12, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on behalf of the University of Hartford concerning Raised Bill 7331. I am the Director of Athletics at the University of Hartford and have worked in higher education for over twenty five years. We strongly urge the Committee to not raise this legislation, in order to protect young men and women competing in intercollegiate athletics. The University of Hartford is extremely concerned about the matter in which college sports are broadly included in the bill which is contrary to the interests of college sports and higher education.

If the Legislature chooses to move forward with legalized sports wagering, we would request that betting on any collegiate sport or athletic event that takes place in Connecticut or a sport or athletic event in which any Connecticut college or university team competes; be prohibited. Opening the door to legalized wagering on college sports will add yet another stressor and challenge on the men and women competing at the Division I, II and III levels of the NCAA. Pressure to miss tip-offs, face-offs, free throws, shave points, divulge medical, academic or other personal information in violation of HIPPA and FERPA regulations to bettors, will only increase the opportunities for student-athletes and students in general to be placed in unsafe and compromising situations.

As currently written, the bill appears to allow live, in-game betting (prop bets) which raises elevated concerns because they are viewed as more easily abused and harder to detect. We strongly encourage the Committee to remove these items from the bill as they apply to college sports and believe doing so still allows for a healthy market place from a business perspective.

This is not a private vs. public institution issue. Legalized college sports wagering will require all colleges and universities to provide increased education university-wide (students, faculty, staff, donors, alumni, etc) and institutions will need to monitor compliance even more closely, which will require additional compliance staffing levels. This will put a strain on already limited budgetary resources and we should not be getting relief for this challenge through state wagering revenues in order that we are not perceived to be profiting from betting on our student-athletes. Furthermore, we cannot underscore the impact on college students social and mental health related issues. Both those who bet and those who are pressured to provide illegal information are susceptible and resources will be necessary to support these populations if this bill passes as amended. Further, any scandal involving a college or university

will draw negative attention to the state and likely result in questions as to why the state was not protecting the interests of its young people.

Attached you will find the NCAA's sports wagering principles that were used in introducing a federal bill last year but which we believe also apply at the state level.

Thank you for your consideration as we strive to ensure all our students are protected and can learn in a safe environment.

Mary Ellen Gillespie
Director of Athletics
University of Hartford



SPORTS WAGERING PRINCIPLES

The NCAA joins other professional sports leagues and policymakers in urging for the enactment of clear and enforceable legal standards to protect the integrity of American sporting contests, the health and safety of student-athletes and professional participants, and consumers. The following principles reflect the Association's thinking around a uniform approach to the evolving landscape of legalized sports wagering in the United States.

Eliminate the Illegal Sports Wagering Marketplace

All forms of amateur and professional sports wagering must occur in a legal, regulated market with those who violate provisions subject to civil and criminal penalties. To mitigate the opportunity for illegal sports wagering, collaboration among various stakeholders, e.g., law enforcement, regulators, the NCAA and other sports leagues, athletic departments, among others is essential. Comprehensive monitoring efforts and effective enforcement are also critically important.

Implementation of Core Regulatory Standards & Consumer Protections

The NCAA takes the position that certain legislative provisions are necessary to provide adequate protections to all those impacted by legalized sports wagering.

Age Limit: Prohibit persons under 21 years of age from participating in sports wagering.

Targeted Advertising & Addiction Resources: Sports wagering operators should promote responsible betting and be prohibited from providing advertisements targeted at young people and problem gamblers. Operators must provide information and resources on how to combat gambling addiction. This includes allowing participants the ability to restrict or limit themselves from placing wagers with an operator.

Limitations on who can engage in Sports Wagering: Regulators will be required to implement customer verification procedures to prohibit operators from accepting wagers from prohibited sources, including coaches, student-athletes, referees, employees of amateur sports organizations, among others. Further, regulators must prohibit those with proprietary knowledge – typically officers and other employees of operators – from placing wagers. Other prohibitions should be implemented to prevent those convicted of certain crimes from placing wagers, and require operators implement periodic criminal history background checks for existing and newly-hired employees.

Official Data: Official data – those records maintained and authorized by amateur and professional sports organizations – ensure the timeliness, accuracy, and integrity of information. Sports wagering operators will be required to use this information to determine betting outcomes.

Data Security & Privacy: Sports wagering operators are prohibited from obtaining or using the protected health information of amateur or professional athletes without the consent of the individual. Operators are also required to prevent unauthorized access to proprietary sports wagering and customer data so that problematic trends can be identified without disclosing sensitive information.

Provide Resources to Protect Fans & Penalize Bad Actors

Operator Licensure & Auditing: Each state will designate a public entity as a regulator to license sports wagering operators within its borders. Licenses will be promulgated based on established criteria, which will include an examination of an operator's fitness to hold such a license. State regulators and sports wagering operators will be required to cooperate with investigations carried out by amateur or professional sports organizations. This will include the regulatory entity requiring sports wagering operators to submit periodic reports that include information on wagers placed. The state regulatory entity will conduct routine audits of all sports wagering operators where – in collaboration with law enforcement – they will have the authority to monitor compliance and enforce applicable laws.

Information Sharing: Sports wagering operators will be required to timely share information with relevant state, federal, and tribal law enforcement bodies; regulators and other oversight entities; and amateur and professional sports organizations. If abnormal activity or trends are detected, parties must notify one another and coordinate appropriate next steps. Sports wagering operators will be required to report, among other things, information related to internal criminal or disciplinary inquiries, abnormal sports wagering patterns, or potential illegal activity within the marketplace.

Maintain Public Confidence in Amateur & Professional Sports

Risky Bet Types: Wagers on individual events or actions during contests increase the opportunity for match-fixing and other corrupt practices related to sports wagering. In order to curtail this conduct, amateur and professional sports organizations will collaborate with regulators and operators to restrict or limit the types of bets that pose a significant risk to the safety of participants and the integrity of contests.