



## **Congressional Testimony: Strengthen Consumer Protections in Sports Betting Legislation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WASHINGTON, DC (September 27, 2018)** – Today, Keith Whyte, Executive Director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, called on Congress to strengthen consumer protections in sports betting legislation to minimize gambling-related harm. In a written statement provided to the committee, Whyte urged the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations to require every stakeholder who will profit from sports betting to incorporate responsible gambling principles into their legislation, regulations and operations.

In his statement Whyte outlined the steps that must be taken by lawmakers to minimize harm following the expansion of legalized sports gambling in the United States:

1. Dedicate at least one percent of revenue to prevent and treat gambling addiction.
2. Require sports betting operators to implement responsible gaming programs.
3. Assign a regulatory agency to enforce responsible gambling and other regulations.
4. Conduct surveys of the prevalence of gambling addiction prior to expansion and at regular periods thereafter to support evidence-based, data-driven responsive measures.
5. Establish a consistent minimum age for sports gambling and related fantasy games.

“Everyone who profits from sports betting bears responsibility for gambling problems,” Whyte explained. “Dedicating a portion of profits from gambling to mitigate gambling harm is an ethical imperative and an economic necessity. The only way to maximize benefits from sports betting is to minimize problem gambling harm.”

There will be a small but significant portion of gamblers who experience negative consequences as a result of the expansion of sports betting. The National Council on Problem Gambling calls on every legislator, league, regulator, gambling operator and other interested parties to pledge to incorporate responsible gambling principles into their legislation, regulations and operations and to implement measures aimed at reducing harm as sports gambling expands across the nation.

[DOWNLOAD THE COMPLETE WRITTEN STATEMENT HERE](#)

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### **About the National Council on Problem Gambling**

NCPG is the national advocate for problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gaming. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call or text the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700 or visit [www.ncpgambling.org/chat](http://www.ncpgambling.org/chat) for confidential help.

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