

OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF PHILLIP COSBY *HB 2199- Sports Wagering*
State Director, American Family Action of Kansas and Missouri
Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee February 2021

With the projected meager net of \$3.5 million to the State of Kansas after the expansion of regulatory and enforcement agencies, admitted accompanying addictions and an expanded recreational tax on the young and poor. Is it really worth the misery?

Call it like it is, the house wins. This is another something for nothing scheme. What happened to the promotion of an honest work ethic? Why not just split the difference of the current 20% cut on casino revenue and the 40% dog track cut and put your hand out for 30%. You can then have your 30 pieces of silver.

Washington Times, Cal Thomas May 23, 2018

“In our increasingly permissive culture where anything goes and the standard that once delineated right from wrong and measured what best promoted the common good has gone with the wind.

Gambling addiction has become a serious problem in America. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), 15 percent of Americans gamble at least once a week.

- Approximately 2 percent to 3 percent of Americans meet the criteria for problem gambling. That’s around 6 million adults and about a half-million teens.
- **Young people risk developing a gambling problem at a rate of about two to three times that of adults, and approximately 6 percent of college students in America have a gambling problem.**
- NCPG research says roughly 40 percent of people with a gambling problem started gambling before the age of 17.
- NCPG notes the annual cost associated with gambling (crime, addiction and bankruptcy) is \$17 billion.
- Approximately 76 percent of problem gamblers are likely to have a major depressive disorder.
- The NPCG also says children of problem gamblers are at higher risk for a number of behaviors, including problem gambling, tobacco use and drug use.
- Oregon Problem Gambling Resource states that about 10 percent to 17 percent of children of problem gamblers and about 25 percent to 50 percent of spouses of problem gamblers have been abused.
- Georgia State University (GSU) estimates that about 50 percent of problem gamblers commit crimes, and about two-thirds of those crimes were directly related to the gambling.

- GSU also notes that 73 percent of people who are incarcerated are identified as problem gamblers.
- An Australian study found that one in five suicidal patients had a gambling problem.
- Players, who make less than astronomical salaries might be tempted by gamblers to perform at subpar levels in exchange for payments.

This is a bad bet on many levels, except for state and local governments, which will show they care less about the effects on people and more about all the additional tax money they will take in.”

AP: Most States Sports Betting Revenue Misses Estimates April 2, 2019

“Tax revenue has fallen far short of projections in four of the six states where gambling on sporting events started last year, according to an Associated Press analysis.

Rhode Island, the only place in New England with legal sports betting, had expected to generate more than \$1 million a month for its state budget through its 51% tax on sportsbook proceeds. The actual revenue? About \$50,000 a month from the late-November launch through February, which included the Super Bowl.

The AP found previously that taxes on sports betting would generate just a fraction of 1% of most states’ budgets if they met their estimates. More than 20 states are considering legalization.

Mississippi is on track to bring in about half the \$5 million that was informally expected for the first year of sports betting. “

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