

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GAMING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
ROOM 60 EAST WING

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016
9:01 A.M.

PRESENTATION ON
H.B. 1887 (ORTITAY)
H.B. 1925 (SANTORA)

BEFORE:

HONORABLE JOHN PAYNE, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE RUSS DIAMOND
HONORABLE GEORGE DUNBAR
HONORABLE SUE HELM
HONORABLE AARON KAUFER
HONORABLE KATE ANNE KLUNK
HONORABLE RYAN MACKENZIE
HONORABLE KURT MASSER
HONORABLE JASON ORTITAY
HONORABLE DAVID PARKER
HONORABLE PAUL SCHEMEL
HONORABLE RYAN WARNER
HONORABLE NICK KOTIK, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE DOM COSTA
HONORABLE TINA DAVIS
HONORABLE MARTY FLYNN
HONORABLE SID KAVULICH
HONORABLE WILLIAM KORTZ, II
HONORABLE ED NEILSON
HONORABLE MARK ROZZI

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*Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

COMMITTEE STAFF PRESENT:

JOSIAH SHELLY

MAJORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHAWNE LEMASTER

MAJORITY LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CHARLES MILLER

DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Good morning. I'd like to call the House Gaming Oversight Committee meeting to order. We'll stand for Pledge of Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Roll call, please?

(Roll was taken.)

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Representative Diamond has joined us. Thank you.

Today's hearing is on House Bill 1887 and House Bill 1925. They're public hearings for input, which sticking with the Chair's desire was to have a public hearing prior to any voting meetings where we would move bills so you have plenty of time for information and questions.

Second, I want to mention to the Committee since most of you are here we have a series of hearings coming up and voting meetings coming up. I ask you to check your calendars. If you can't make them, make sure you put in a proxy. These are geared now this year towards the

1 restaurant, taverns, clubs, small games fix, increasing the
2 small games that are allowed, the prize money that is
3 allowed, raising the thresholds. We're trying to get bills
4 lined up as part of the June budget process, so April and
5 May will be extremely busy.

6 With that, I'd like to call Representative Jason
7 Ortitay. You're up first.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 This bill that I'm proposing today basically
10 takes all the numbers and consolidates the hotline for the
11 gambling lines and puts it into one number. As I
12 understand it, over the last decade or so, as gambling in
13 Pennsylvania has expanded, we've created more and more
14 numbers. And this way we could just pull it all back into
15 one, make it easy for everybody across the State and
16 hopefully simplify it for the casinos and everybody as well
17 and promote a little bit of efficiency at the State level.

18 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you.

19 The first presenter is Josh Ercole, Chief
20 Operating Officer, Council on Compulsive Gambling. Josh,
21 all yours, please. And make sure the microphone is turned
22 on. The light should be green.

23 MR. ERCOLE: Okay. Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
24 Can you hear me okay?

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Yes.

1 MR. ERCOLE: Okay, great. And good morning also,
2 Members of the House Gaming Oversight. Thank you for once
3 again inviting the Council on Compulsive Gambling of
4 Pennsylvania to address the committee and to also provide
5 you with information related to the problem gambling
6 helpline services that are available in Pennsylvania.

7 At the Council, we continue to address the issue
8 of problem gambling behaviors and the effects of these
9 behaviors in the Commonwealth and throughout the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Council has served as
11 the State advocacy group since 1997, servicing the needs of
12 these individuals affected by problem gambling behaviors,
13 and the Council is currently fully managed and operated by
14 myself, Josh Ercole, Chief Operating Officer; and Jim
15 Pappas, Executive Director.

16 We also have currently have a Communications
17 Director and Event Planner on staff and additionally, we
18 partner with a number of consultant trainers throughout
19 Pennsylvania to assist with different workshops and
20 programs that we conduct. We currently have a speaker
21 bureau of approximately six consultant presenters that we
22 work with regularly.

23 Regarding the helpline services, allow me to
24 begin by referring you to our 2015 Annual Report and our
25 February 2016 Helpline Reports. Much of the information

1 that I will speak of today regarding these existing
2 helpline numbers in Pennsylvania is available and
3 highlighted in these reports.

4 Our 24/7 live clinical response call center
5 receives on average 1,600 calls per month, many of these
6 calls are from citizens who are impacted by problem
7 gambling behavior. In 2015, we saw an increase of over 100
8 intake calls throughout the course of the year as compared
9 to 2014. These were made by individuals seeking
10 information or help about a gambling problem that either
11 they or a loved one were currently experiencing.

12 There are currently 25 trained helpline
13 specialists on staff who answer calls from problem gamblers
14 or from friends and family members of impacted individuals.
15 When the calls come in, the helpline specialists are able
16 to offer additional resources and referrals to callers
17 seeking assistance. And these referrals include, but are
18 definitely not limited to, professional counseling
19 services, as well as Gamblers Anonymous meetings that may
20 be taking place in that caller's area.

21 In addition to Gamblers Anonymous, we also link
22 callers with Gam-Anon meetings for the significant other of
23 the gambler.

24 These call services are offered free, and
25 additionally, there is a language line service that's

1 available so that in the event that a caller does not speak
2 English, they can be directly contacted to a language line
3 service to find additional help. This is available in over
4 60 languages at the moment.

5 The staff at the helpline center goes through
6 onsite training in gambling addiction, crisis intervention,
7 referral dissemination, and Health Insurance Portability
8 and Accountability, or HIPAA, regulations. There are
9 currently three master's level counselors on staff on call
10 24/7 who specialize in problem gambling treatment and offer
11 assistance on every single intake call or call of crisis
12 that may come in.

13 The staff training process is intensely focused
14 around mock calls and one-on-one mentorship with senior
15 helpline specialists. These calls are monitored for
16 quality assurance on an ongoing basis.

17 Regarding the helpline numbers in Pennsylvania,
18 the Council's own statewide helpline number (1-800-848-
19 1880) has been in existence since 1997. From 1997 to
20 February of 2007, calls to this number were answered
21 directly by Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania
22 staff and volunteers. During that time, the Pennsylvania
23 Lottery and also Pennsylvania horse racing tracks
24 advertised this number as well.

25 In 2004, the passage of the Pennsylvania Race

1 Horse Development and Gaming Act, or Act 71, allowed for
2 the introduction of casino gambling to Pennsylvania. And
3 as part of the license agreement with the Pennsylvania
4 Gaming Control Board, all casinos would be mandated to
5 advertise a helpline number. They were allowed to select
6 which number they would advertise, and this was in place to
7 help those seeking information and also those seeking
8 assistance for problems related to gambling activity.

9 In February of 2007, as a result of this gaming
10 expansion, the Council began offering a 24-hour-a-day,
11 7-day-a-week, live assistance by utilizing a clinical
12 response call center. At that time, the Council increased
13 available services, and the call center began managing
14 calls coming in from additional helpline numbers. The
15 reason for this is, is up until this point many of the
16 residents of Pennsylvania gambled regularly in other
17 jurisdictions where other helpline numbers had previously
18 been advertised, and therefore, many of these individuals
19 may not have been aware of the number that was currently
20 being advertised in Pennsylvania, again, the 1-800-848-1880
21 number.

22 In New Jersey, for example, the Council on
23 Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey-owned helpline number,
24 1-800-GAMBLER, puts callers in touch with assistance. On a
25 national scale, the national number, the National Council

1 on Problem Gambling, they have the number 1-800-522-4700,
2 which is used as a link to help. We felt that it was
3 important to partner with these councils in order adopt
4 these numbers as our own and offer them to callers in
5 Pennsylvania. And since February 2007, any call made to
6 one of these numbers from a Pennsylvania area code will put
7 callers in direct contact with our helpline center.

8 Upon becoming Category 1 racinos, the majority of
9 the racetracks that previously utilized the Council on
10 Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania statewide helpline
11 number began utilizing the 1-800-GAMBLER number. Also
12 using the 1-800-GAMBLER number in Pennsylvania are
13 Sugarhouse Casino, Mount Airy Casino Resort, Mohegan Sun
14 Pocono, Presque Isle Downs and Casino, Rivers Casino, Lady
15 Luck Casino Nemacolin, Valley Forge Casino Resort, Parx
16 Casino, and Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem.

17 Typically, the 1-800-GAMBLER number does receive
18 the majority of calls on a monthly basis representing
19 approximately half of all calls. The 1-800-848-1880 number
20 is still advertised by the PA Lottery and appears on all
21 tickets and printed materials and, additionally, is
22 regularly posted as a crawler that goes along the bottom of
23 the television screen during televised lottery drawings.

24 The Meadows racetrack also continues to advertise
25 the 1-800-848-1880 number as well. In 2015, 17 percent of

1 the intake calls that were received at our helpline center
2 were made by callers utilizing this number.

3 The National Council on Problem Gambling number,
4 the 1-800-522-4700, this is not actively advertised in
5 Pennsylvania, but, again, we feel that based on national
6 advertising and awareness of this number, as well as
7 significant annual call rates, that it is vital to connect
8 Pennsylvania callers who may utilize this number to our
9 helpline service as they may become aware of the number in
10 another jurisdiction. Calls to the national number
11 represented approximately 18 percent of total intake calls
12 in 2015.

13 The Council also currently contracts with and
14 manages cans that are made using the number that is
15 operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol
16 Programs, or DDAP. This is the 1-877-565-2112. In
17 addition, this is also the number that Hollywood Casino at
18 Penn National Racecourse utilizes. This is the one that
19 they advertise on a regular basis. And this number
20 accounted for approximately 8 percent of intake calls in
21 2015.

22 Once again, all of the information I just
23 outlined is presented in much greater detail in the annual
24 and monthly reports that you have in front of you.

25 Please understand, despite the fact that there

1 are currently four numbers, again, four numbers that are
2 advertised by various establishments, departments, and
3 agencies throughout Pennsylvania, these numbers all connect
4 callers to the exact same call center, which again offers
5 24/7 live assistance to callers or anybody who's seeking
6 additional assistance.

7 In November of 2015, we also implemented a chat-
8 line option to our website and a text-for-help feature,
9 both of which offer individuals who may be suffering from
10 gambling-related issues or those seeking information an
11 alternative from the traditional helpline or phone-call
12 approach. Using a computer or a mobile device, an
13 individual seeking assistance can connect with a helpline
14 specialist utilizing one of these features, maintaining an
15 additional level of anonymity by not requiring callers to
16 actually verbalize that they have an issue or that they
17 have a problem. We feel that this may help them to take
18 that first step towards seeking help or towards seeking
19 treatment.

20 Effective December 1, 2015, the Council has four
21 billboards throughout the Philadelphia region, displaying
22 our primary helpline numbers. Philadelphia County
23 consistently accounts for the highest number of monthly
24 intake calls. We are currently researching available ad
25 space and other options throughout central and western

1 Pennsylvania as well.

2 In an ongoing effort to raise awareness and stay
3 connected with communities throughout Pennsylvania, we
4 regularly take part in meetings and consortiums with the
5 gaming task force in Philadelphia, with DDAP in Harrisburg,
6 and several other county organizations throughout
7 Pennsylvania.

8 The Council currently conducts a responsible
9 gaming program to casino team members throughout the State
10 titled the CAP or Customer Assistance Program training.
11 And these trainings, which are conducted annually as part
12 of the casino license agreement in Pennsylvania, are
13 presented to live audiences and also recorded for team
14 members who are unable to attend the live presentation, as
15 well as future hires.

16 Again, it is mandated by the Gaming Control Board
17 that all casino team members complete these trainings on an
18 annual basis. And these trainings focus on helping team
19 members to understand what problem gambling is, understand
20 some of the signs that are often displayed by folks who may
21 be suffering from a problem, and then, most importantly,
22 what resources are available to them and how they should
23 utilize these resources.

24 Now, please understand, the people that we're
25 referring to, this can be a customer, it can be a coworker,

1 it could be a friend or family member of the team member,
2 so there is a lot of value to these trainings that goes
3 well beyond just the patrons of each of the gaming
4 establishments.

5 The primary resource that we focus on is the use
6 of the onsite or the site-specific advertised helpline
7 number. Our main goal in providing this training to
8 empower every single team member at every casino throughout
9 Pennsylvania to use the resources that are available to
10 them. We want them to be the link between somebody who is
11 going through a difficult time and help that's available.
12 We stress the importance of awareness and customer
13 assistance and stress that this training is not about
14 diagnosing disorders. We simply want team members to be
15 ready should they be asked for assistance.

16 Finally, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of
17 Pennsylvania has worked to expand our social network and
18 website in an effort to share as much information and make
19 as many resources as possible available. These resources
20 include downloadable materials for the general public, as
21 well as for clinicians. This includes information in
22 several languages.

23 In our opinion, mandating that one universal
24 number be made available throughout Pennsylvania could
25 potentially be problematic in the following ways:

1 First of all, the costs associated with updating
2 advertised helpline numbers would be considerable for all
3 involved parties who would be required to make this change.
4 Throughout Pennsylvania casinos, the site-specific numbers
5 are advertised at many locations throughout the casino,
6 including but not limited to all entrances and exits, ATM
7 machines, locations such as guest services, and on all
8 printed signage that's posted throughout the gaming area.

9 A change of this caliber would require not only
10 updating of all advertised onsite signage and materials,
11 but also all billboard advertisement, player
12 club/VIP/casino cards, anything that's utilized onsite, and
13 any other materials that are distributed to and utilized by
14 existing patrons.

15 A larger concern in our eyes lies among those who
16 are geographically and culturally linked to the numbers
17 that are advertised at the gaming establishment or in the
18 area that they frequent. There are many areas of the State
19 where residents are likely unaware of other existing or
20 multiple numbers in Pennsylvania, and our fear is that
21 replacing numbers, a confusion may be created, a confusion
22 among those who are familiar with the existing number in
23 their area, which would then possibly prevent that person
24 from taking the first steps toward seeking help.

25 This concludes our testimony. Thank you again

1 for inviting us to participate today. And if time permits,
2 I would be happy to answer any questions or hear any
3 comments that the Committee Members have for us.

4 I'd also like to introduce Jim Pappas, the
5 Executive Director of the Council, who on a historical
6 level he's been around longer than I have as far as at the
7 Council, so he may be able to field some questions better
8 than I will. But we do welcome any that may arise. Thank
9 you.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you.

11 Let me add to the list of Representatives that
12 are present: Representative Costa, Neilson, Kavulich,
13 Rozzi, Mackenzie, Klunk, and Davis. I think I got them
14 all. Did I miss anybody?

15 Thank you.

16 Questions? Representative Kaufer.

17 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Thank you, Josh, for being here. I appreciate it.
19 Obviously, an issue that I know we've talked about before
20 and I'm very passionate about.

21 A couple of questions for you. I was looking at
22 the numbers, and we recently had a hearing in the Aging
23 Committee about the lottery fund. There currently isn't
24 any money coming from the lottery to support any compulsive
25 gambling initiatives. You guys talked with them, but there

1 isn't any funding that comes from them towards you guys
2 currently? No, right?

3 MR. ERCOLE: No, there is.

4 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: Okay. There is?

5 MR. ERCOLE: Yes.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: Okay. What's that fund?

7 MR. PAPPAS: Hello again. I'm Jim Pappas from
8 Council. Sorry for being late.

9 Historically, our initial funding began with Paul
10 Clymer, a grant of \$15,000 through the lottery in 1997.
11 Our annual contract and grant from the lottery is now
12 \$150,000 a year. That pays for half of all of our helpline
13 services and for staffing and administrative issues,
14 conferences, et cetera.

15 So we have partnered -- even before them, we did
16 get \$5,000 in 1992 when we were a mom-and-pop kind of
17 organization with walking-around, WAM money, from then-
18 State Senator LeAnna Washington.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: You know, and I
20 appreciate that. I guess at that time they weren't aware
21 of that? They seemed to not be aware of that --

22 MR. PAPPAS: Well, the lottery funding is totally
23 separate from the Act 71, DDAP, Gaming Control Board
24 sources.

25 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: So one more question,

1 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

2 Their testimony was about such a small number of
3 people calling about the lottery. And I'm looking at last
4 year's annual report, which there was total calls of 34 in
5 regard to the lottery from last year for compulsive
6 gambling issues. And this year, just in the two months,
7 we're already at 41 phone calls. It's the third-highest on
8 the list of different options that are here that are
9 available. I'm wondering if you guys can identify any
10 reasons why we've seen such a large spike.

11 And I'm comparing the two numbers between the two
12 different reports, the 2015 report and the one from this
13 year where it has identified lottery and scratch-offs for
14 41 phone calls between the months of January and February
15 compared to last year, a total of 34 total calls regarding
16 lottery compulsive gambling. Anything that you guys have
17 seen or why that number would have spiked so much?

18 MR. ERCOLE: One possible explanation is the
19 increased involvement in lottery play this year
20 specifically. As I'm sure we're all aware, we had the
21 record-breaking lottery that took place in January.
22 Generally, we receive somewhere in the neighborhood of 300
23 to 400 calls monthly. I think it was January of this year,
24 which I could find for you in the February report. But
25 you'll see that there was over 1,000 calls lottery-

1 specific. A lot of these calls again were informational
2 based; I don't mean that they were all problems. But we
3 did see a tremendous spike.

4 So generally, when there is tremendous spikes in
5 calls, that represents a lot of participation in the
6 activity, which unfortunately, as the percentages do
7 indicate, when the higher involvement is there,
8 unfortunately, there's also more problems that develop.

9 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: I appreciate it.

10 MR. ERCOLE: So without analyzing it further,
11 that would be my first guess.

12 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: No, I thank you for that
13 because that is an area of concern of mine. If we're
14 advertising gambling addiction, I know it's on the back of
15 our lottery tickets, but I think there's something more
16 that we could be doing with our locations that are selling
17 lottery tickets to make people aware. I think it is a huge
18 issue, as we've heard from -- I know you were here when I
19 had somebody from my community come and testify.

20 But thank you. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 MR. ERCOLE: Thank you.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you,
23 Representative.

24 Other questions before the Chair asks?

25 Representative Diamond.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 And thank you, sir, for your testimony.

3 I just want to clarify a couple things you said
4 in your testimony. You said that all four other numbers go
5 to the same location, right? So is it your opinion that
6 the requirements of House Bill 1887 would simply be an
7 expensive advertising campaign just to make those numbers
8 advertise the same even though they're dumping into the
9 same system?

10 MR. ERCOLE: For lack of a better description,
11 yes. Without putting our suggestion or advice or any
12 strong feeling, currently, what House Bill 1887 would do is
13 basically change the advertised number but ultimately not
14 change where those calls go.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

16 MR. ERCOLE: So that's where we feel that cost-
17 wise it would be a deterrent. It would be a difficult
18 process.

19 But again, as I stated, our bigger concern is
20 changing -- in Erie, for example, there's one casino within
21 a couple hundred miles of that area. The community is
22 aware of 1-800-GAMBLER. If all of a sudden the only number
23 that they saw was this different number coming in, they may
24 not be aware that that other number is still available, and
25 it may cause confusion.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

2 MR. ERCOLE: So that's a potential concern for
3 us.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: I'm looking at one of
5 these reports here, and there's a section on co-occurring
6 disorders. I mean, it lists alcoholism, drug abuse,
7 depression, eating disorder, overspending, and sexual
8 addiction. Can you tell me what happens with callers that
9 express that? Do you shunt them off to some other agency
10 or --

11 MR. ERCOLE: No. No, not at all. First of all,
12 within gambling disorder, there are incredibly high rates
13 of co-occurring disorders, whether it be behavioral health
14 or drug and alcohol problems or some other disorder, as is
15 outlined in the report. No, the majority of the trained
16 clinicians throughout Pennsylvania are actually drug and
17 alcohol counselors or behavioral health counselors who then
18 expand their services to offer gambling --

19 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

20 MR. ERCOLE: -- services as well. So they're
21 actually the perfect people to go to --

22 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

23 MR. ERCOLE: -- because a lot of them are trained
24 in co-occurring disorders. And we do have lists of
25 referrals. When I mentioned we would send people to a

1 trained clinician or a counseling agency, generally, it
2 would mirror the need that the caller has. So we wouldn't
3 put somebody in touch with a service that didn't make sense
4 for them.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

6 MR. ERCOLE: That would be a referral that fit
7 their problem.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: All right. Thank you,
9 sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you.

11 Representative Neilson.

12 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Good morning. Thank you for your testimony.

14 MR. ERCOLE: Good morning.

15 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: I'm looking at the
16 annual report here, and it's talking about -- I just want
17 to make certain I understand it right.

18 MR. ERCOLE: Yes, please.

19 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: The intake 1,664 calls
20 annually, then it talks about seeking casino information,
21 seeking lottery information. You just testified that you
22 don't give them other places to go. What do you do if they
23 ask you, hey, where's this casino at? Do you give them
24 that?

25 MR. ERCOLE: If they ask for the location?

1 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Yes.

2 MR. ERCOLE: No. So basically --

3 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: So --

4 MR. ERCOLE: -- if the call center --

5 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: So you're taking 10,000
6 calls that are seeking --

7 MR. ERCOLE: Information --

8 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: -- some kind of
9 information about casino or lottery, where they can get the
10 tickets. What do you do with those calls? Just hang up
11 and say --

12 MR. ERCOLE: No. No, no, no.

13 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Do you give them another
14 number to call?

15 MR. ERCOLE: No. So basically the majority of
16 those calls, for example, would be I missed the drawing
17 last night; can you tell me what the numbers are?

18 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Okay.

19 MR. ERCOLE: So obviously that's not the call
20 center's responsibility. That's not our focus. That's not
21 what we would offer. What we would do at that point is let
22 them know what the call center is set up for. Please
23 understand this is a service for folks who are suffering
24 from or looking for information about problem gambling.
25 Please remember this. Please share this with anybody that

1 you may come across.

2 As far as directions, they would maybe relocate
3 them to a -- they wouldn't look up the information to get
4 them directions to a casino or they wouldn't look up last
5 night's lottery drawings in other words. But they don't
6 just hang up on those calls or treat them as a worthless
7 call in other words.

8 Would you like to add something to that?

9 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, a lot of these calls that
10 you're referring to are people, lost items that they left
11 in Hollywood Casino as an example or Mohegan Sun or they
12 have a complaint, legitimate or not, about the services
13 rendered at those agencies. They are referred to the
14 proper agency. Usually, those types of calls are referred
15 to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. They not only
16 regulate the daily operations, but they manage the
17 compulsive gambling plans that all the gaming industry is
18 required and mandated to have by them and reviewed every
19 year. So we try to connect them wherever possible as a
20 resource for other services.

21 But he's right. Very quickly, in the helpline
22 services, there are two provider lists that we maintain,
23 one that we call the master provider list, which is folks
24 that have completed our clinical training and have been
25 approved by either us or the Pennsylvania Certification

1 Board or Department of Drug and Alcohol that are qualified
2 to treat the issue and be paid by the State.

3 But we also have for those folks that we've
4 trained -- and we've trained over 8,000 therapists in the
5 State since 2006, so we have a master provider list for
6 those that are reimbursed by third-party payers such as
7 Signa, Aetna, BlueCross, whatever the case may be. And
8 most of the folks that are on the DDAP provider list are
9 already on the master provider list.

10 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Thank you for that.

11 My other question is 1,600 calls and you think
12 that's problematic of us getting everybody on one -- I
13 mean, you almost essentially said at the end of your
14 testimony you're against us making this type of move. Did
15 I understand that correct?

16 MR. ERCOLE: I'm not sure I follow the --

17 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: You don't want us to use
18 one number. You think it's problematic. It's going to
19 cost money and --

20 MR. ERCOLE: That's just a concern. I wouldn't
21 say that I don't want you to or that we don't --

22 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Okay.

23 MR. ERCOLE: -- want you to. It's not it at all.
24 We're just expressing our thoughts on the subject.

25 As far as the 1,600 calls that come in, the

1 problem here is that statistically and based on studies
2 that are done on an ongoing basis nationally and
3 internationally, anywhere between 1 to 3 percent of the
4 adult population suffers from a moderate to severe gambling
5 problem. In Pennsylvania it's estimated nearly 300,000
6 people are suffering from some type of an issue.

7 So our concern is greater than just the 1,600
8 calls that we get. It's the overall population who may be
9 suffering.

10 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Well, you said a larger
11 concern in our eyes is those geographically.

12 MR. ERCOLE: Correct.

13 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: If I call Erie today, I
14 mean, reality is I'm answering a phone call, and they don't
15 know where I'm at, so how can that impact you
16 geographically? Because when you call an 800 number, you
17 don't know what State you're calling. You go on the back
18 of your credit card and you're disputing a charge and you
19 call a number and they're putting you in with a Third World
20 country half the time. I mean, that's real. How does that
21 person know where you're calling? I'm trying to understand
22 that your impact, you're seeing an issue with this and
23 we're trying to consolidate costs here and put more money
24 into the problem instead of having all these numbers out
25 there and have one number. I don't understand how you can

1 sit there and say, hey, it's a problem, but you know what,
2 are you for this bill or against the bill?

3 MR. ERCOLE: Do you want to --

4 MR. PAPPAS: With the bill itself we are
5 completely neutral. To us it doesn't matter -- the cost
6 and burden that Josh referred to is not going to fall on
7 the Council. The burden would be for the gaming industry
8 for them to go through a massive change of numbers from
9 800-GAMBLER, whatever their numbers to one central number.
10 The cost and burden is to them.

11 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: All right. So the
12 calls --

13 MR. PAPPAS: The calls will still come to us. We
14 will still --

15 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Maintain those calls.

16 MR. PAPPAS: If you decide to go with one number,
17 we will still man the ones that we manage and lease and
18 own.

19 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: So just to throw a
20 number out there, so instead of the casino making a billion
21 dollars next year, they might only make \$999 million
22 because they have to make this change?

23 MR. PAPPAS: We're completely neutral.

24 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: You're neutral but the
25 cost that you're testifying about is not on you, not on the

1 services that you provide. It will actually be on the big
2 casino?

3 MR. PAPPAS: For all the gaming industry within
4 the State, yes.

5 REPRESENTATIVE NEILSON: Thank you, sir. I have
6 nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

7 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you,
8 Representative. I was going to ask a question along that
9 line but I'm not going to. I guess I would just say this,
10 having spent 25 years in the fire service, I wonder if they
11 had this discussion when they said let's all use 911?

12 I do want to follow up on the \$150,000 from the
13 lottery to help fund the Council. Are you aware of monies
14 that the lottery puts towards education and treatment? I
15 mean, I walk in the convenience stores, I don't see problem
16 gamers, if you have a problem with a lottery ticket, call
17 this number. I don't see those signs.

18 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, those numbers are posted now.
19 They're posted on all their -- in the last few year, the
20 ATMs.

21 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: I'm talking about the
22 counter when you go up and buy the ticket.

23 MR. PAPPAS: Well, that you would have to talk to
24 the lottery. They have them posted on where the lottery
25 tickets are sold, and I know specifically highlighted on

1 the new ATM machines. But they, too, get a list of all the
2 providers that are available for service in the
3 Commonwealth through us.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Okay. We'll follow up
5 with them. I'm concerned that the appropriate amount of
6 money is being spent on education and treatment there, as
7 it's already being spent by the casinos.

8 MR. PAPPAS: Well --

9 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: And as far as the cost
10 on the change, I've talked to Representative Ortitay at
11 length, part of that process is going to be a phase-in,
12 like you mentioned billboards. Well, the next time the
13 billboard is put up, we'll put the new number on it. The
14 next time something happens -- it wasn't designed to be at
15 midnight tonight, everybody uses that new number.

16 MR. PAPPAS: Well, again, we're --

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: So thank you. I want
18 to move on to the next presenter, Secretary Gary Tennis,
19 Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol. Secretary,
20 thank you for being here.

21 MR. TENNIS: And if it's all right with you, I'd
22 like to introduce to you -- here, you take this one --
23 Dr. Ken Martz is my special assistant, and is nationally
24 published in gambling issues, treatment and prevention, as
25 well as got the certification to treat counseling so that

1 he kind of has a deeper understanding of the issue.

2 I'm going to keep my comments brief so that we
3 can --

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: We appreciate that.

5 MR. TENNIS: -- have more time for discussion.

6 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: CliffsNotes version is
7 always good.

8 MR. TENNIS: It's very hard for me to do, but I
9 think it's the right thing here.

10 Just a few initial thoughts, first of all, thank
11 you. Any time you bring attention to this issue, the
12 suffering around gambling you all know is tremendous. And
13 although we deal primarily with the drug and alcohol issue,
14 we find that those that are suffering with compulsive
15 gambling disorders end up committing even higher -- we know
16 drug and alcohol there's a high rate of suicide for those
17 who suffer with that disease.

18 In this area it's even higher because when that
19 person descends into the disease, they've ended up often
20 squandering not only their own resources but their family's
21 resources and they've left kind of a disastrous situation
22 there. And it's something that sometimes body who suffers
23 with this disease really can't face and they can't go on
24 any longer. So we've got to get this area right. And I
25 appreciate both your putting the spotlight on it and

1 looking to make this system work better.

2 The way our agency handles the gambling, it's
3 actually statutorily assigned to the Department of Health,
4 but because my agency was borne out of the Department of
5 Health and our Bureau of Drug and Alcohol programs handled
6 gambling, they MOU it or they contract it over to us and
7 kind of shift that function directly to my department,
8 which with the same people that were doing it before.

9 I'll just make a few kind of broad comments.
10 There are a couple of issues here. One is should we have
11 one hotline number instead of a bunch of them? Clearly,
12 that makes sense. I mean, it's just kind of a commonsense
13 issue. There will be costs and I think it's a legitimate
14 inquiry to find out what the costs are. Those are the
15 costs of the fix. I think once you've had those initial
16 costs, I don't see how that would create an ongoing cost.
17 It seems to me it would be a one-time deal. And that's
18 something we'd have to look at.

19 It is correct all of these numbers all go to the
20 same place. Furman, I gather, in Louisiana that handles
21 them for a number of States. So that's one of the issues.

22 The other issue is I know and it's been raised
23 and I've had conversations with Representative Kaufer about
24 what happens when you call that number, and we've seen the
25 testimony and we actually did our own double-check and the

1 response on that call is underwhelming. It's not something
2 anybody should be very happy about in terms of is the kind
3 of intervention, is the kind of interaction that's
4 occurring there going to be something that helps somebody
5 who's often in a state of sometimes life-threatening
6 crisis. So those are a couple of the issues.

7 And I've been thinking, we actually had a lot of
8 conversation about this bill. One of the things that a
9 good piece of legislation does, whether it passes or not,
10 is it catalyzes action within government. And I've seen
11 that more and more since -- you know, I used to represent
12 the district attorneys. We just wanted to get the crimes
13 codes done and it didn't have that function. In this area,
14 it's very helpful.

15 So I would like to sort of suggest maybe an
16 alternative way of looking at this. And I mentioned it to
17 Representative Ortitay just a minute ago. We've had
18 conversations, my staff has, with Representative Diamond
19 about an 800 number for folks with drug and alcohol
20 problems. Gene DiGirolamo has a bill in assessing the
21 pharmaceutical industry for a little tiny, tiny percentage
22 of their enormous profits to pay for drug and alcohol
23 treatment and an 800 number.

24 It's not just folks -- as bad as this problem is
25 with gambling, you all know probably from your constituents

1 and from this terrible crisis that's going on now that when
2 you meet with parents or family members of loved ones
3 who've died from drug and alcohol overdose, one of the
4 first things they say is we didn't know where to go to get
5 help. We didn't know where to turn. You know, we went
6 online and you got to this come to this wonderful place in
7 Florida and we'll fix you up and send you home and you'll
8 be all better. We know it's not true.

9 We actually have the best -- I think we have the
10 best treatment probably in America here in Pennsylvania,
11 and if allowed to get the sufficient level of care and
12 length of stay, they have tremendous outcomes. And my
13 suggestion, what we were thinking about, and come to find
14 out it's what they're doing in New York State is that we
15 considered -- and it would be a broader, a little bit more
16 in-depth discussion. It doesn't lend itself to an
17 immediate legislative fix, but it is something we could
18 explore is could we have a 1-800 number that includes
19 people with drug and alcohol problems, compulsive gambling
20 problems, being a suicide risk?

21 Number one, these are -- and then really put the
22 resources in to publishing it so that you can't go anywhere
23 without knowing this number, that everybody is going to
24 know this number because we're going to -- instead of
25 putting all the resources in all different directions,

1 we're kind of consolidating them in one area. And then the
2 person who answers the phone will be somebody with
3 expertise in those areas and will be able to engage the
4 person at the proper fashion.

5 We were looking at is there a way to bring it in-
6 house because we can't -- it's hard to control a firm
7 that's serving 10 States or however many States that that
8 firm serves. Now, this is all tentative and I would need
9 to touch base with a number of other agencies. I would
10 need to, you know, have more conversations up with the
11 Governor's office and legislative staffers. But if you're
12 willing to explore that avenue, I think it might make the
13 most sense to have the same number everywhere that
14 everybody knows, and we could solve this problem and maybe
15 solve another problem as well. And my suspicion is that
16 Chairman DiGirolamo would be amendable to this kind of
17 thing as well.

18 So we're looking at anybody in crisis whether for
19 mental health, drug and alcohol, compulsive gambling
20 disorder, anybody in crisis would be able to know the
21 number. It would be posted at the 7/11 and everywhere
22 else, well-advertised, and they would be effectively
23 intervened with probably by somebody right here in
24 Pennsylvania.

25 So that's kind of -- and I say it tentatively but

1 it is kind of assuring to know that that is what they do in
2 New York State, and I just want to put that out there for
3 your consideration.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: We thank you for that
5 CliffsNotes version and very effectively done.

6 Questions, Representative Kaufer?

7 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Thank you, Secretary Tennis. Dr. Martz, thank you very
9 much for being here.

10 The New York State model, I think, has been a
11 model that I think is in the process of being proven to be
12 very effective. And I think it ties very well into what
13 we're talking about today and about stabilizing people.

14 One of the things you mentioned, and I think it's
15 so important and if you could elaborate a little bit on it
16 was about gambling addiction. When you go and get the
17 treatment and you get the therapy and you change your
18 lifestyle, one of the problems, unlike with drugs and with
19 alcohol, is you leave that and then it's just the social
20 problems of getting back into the normal. And with
21 gambling addiction, one of the problems you still owe all
22 those people money. You still owe money, typically, all
23 over the place. Can you just elaborate a little bit on
24 that? I know you touched on it quickly.

25 MR. TENNIS: I could elaborate, but if it's okay

1 with you, Dr. Martz is more knowledgeable than me, so I'll
2 let him.

3 DR. MARTZ: So you hit on a key issue again that
4 has been mentioned already earlier today that individuals
5 that are coming in with one of these concerns usually have
6 a multifaceted problem. They have mental health issues,
7 they may have substance abuse as well. They typically have
8 financial issues, which then also creates relationship
9 problems because my spouse is very upset that I got rid of
10 the retirement fund and everything else.

11 So that's a part of the comprehensive assessment
12 that gets done. The hotline is just the intro to the door,
13 so they're going to then go to a complete assessment that
14 will work for them for the intensity and duration of
15 treatment that's needed, and they will be stepped down so
16 that they've got hand-in-hand coordination with -- when I
17 was doing counseling, there was always somebody working
18 hand-in-hand to make sure that the financial concerns were
19 addressed as well or mental health, et cetera, so that it's
20 a comprehensive step-down so when they're ready to leave,
21 it's appropriate.

22 MR. TENNIS: And then sometimes there's another
23 issue as well, which is sometimes people with compulsive
24 gambling end up getting caught up in the criminal justice
25 system because they've embezzled -- often you'll see -- and

1 I speak to this as a former prosecutor, you'll see cases
2 where people have embezzled from their company or their
3 employer. These end up being people with gambling
4 problems.

5 So one of the solutions there -- I mean,
6 obviously, you have to answer for your criminal behavior,
7 whatever the reason for it. But we need to offer hope to
8 people at some point getting their life back. So
9 Lieutenant Governor Stack and I have started in the drug
10 and alcohol treatment area where we also have a lot of
11 criminal justice involvement, Pathway to Pardons, which is
12 really about educating people coming out of treatment that
13 after you've got several years of recovery and you're
14 several years past completing, having paid all of your
15 penalty back to society, you've paid for your crimes, that
16 after three years of staying out of trouble, staying clean,
17 you can apply for pardons, and you probably have a very
18 good chance of getting that pardon.

19 So at the end of the day you have to feel like
20 you have some hope of having a decent life again, even if
21 it's several years down the road. So that would be another
22 -- aside from dealing with all the problems that maybe
23 you've, you know, taken your parents' money and spent it
24 all and now they have no retirement and you have all that
25 guilt, you also have sometimes criminal justice

1 consequences as well.

2 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: Well, I think the point
3 that you touched on, too, is also the reason why we started
4 the PA-HOPE Caucus, which I know you're aware of, and
5 trying to address and streamline a lot of these services,
6 as being talked about, whether it's gambling addiction,
7 drugs, alcohol, anything, that there is a streamlined
8 process of getting people the help they need through
9 stabilization units or emergency detox centers or anything
10 along those lines.

11 But one quick follow-up on that about the issue
12 itself, the lottery recently expanded to allow credit
13 gambling in certain areas on certain machines. It was a
14 test being done in the Harrisburg market. I have a big
15 concern about credit gambling. I asked a similar question
16 in our Aging Committee. I was wondering if you guys could
17 weigh in about gambling addiction and credit gambling.

18 MR. TENNIS: I don't know. I wasn't aware of
19 that. I'm sorry.

20 DR. MARTZ: That's been debated over the years,
21 various concerns with regard to credit because gamblers
22 will work to increase credit availability, which brings
23 with it associated components --

24 MR. TENNIS: But we'll look into that and --

25 DR. MARTZ: Yes.

1 MR. TENNIS: -- have that discussion.

2 REPRESENTATIVE KAUFER: Thank you very much for
3 your testimony today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you.

5 Representative Diamond.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
7 and thank you for your testimony, Mr. Secretary. And thank
8 you to you and your staff for taking the time in previous
9 weeks --

10 MR. TENNIS: It's an important issue, yes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: -- to talk to me about
12 this.

13 We heard from Mr. Ercole that the folks who take
14 these calls or hear about these people, they have general
15 behavioral -- and they can deal with any of these issues.
16 Is that your understanding?

17 MR. TENNIS: I'm going to let Dr. Martz answer
18 that question.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Whether it's alcoholism
20 or drug abuse or --

21 DR. MARTZ: Yes.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: The people who are
23 trained to deal with the gambling addiction are also
24 trained in those other areas, correct?

25 DR. MARTZ: Absolutely. If you have a gambling

1 addiction, 50 percent of those with a gambling addiction
2 also have a substance abuse addiction --

3 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Right.

4 DR. MARTZ: -- they also have depression because,
5 again -- and the guilt associated, anxiety associated. So
6 the comorbidity of multiple disorders and needing to work
7 with multiple issues --

8 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

9 DR. MARTZ: -- is commonplace.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: So it occurs to me that
11 it's not really necessary to have one number, that we could
12 have 1-800-ALCOHOL, we could have 1-800-HEROIN, and it
13 could all be shunted to the same place where you have these
14 behavior specialists. And if you wanted to eventually get
15 down to one phone number for every problem, you could do
16 that by attrition instead of the casinos being forced to
17 change all their signage now. When they naturally replace
18 that signage, the put up the new unified number.

19 And I think adjacent, related to you, my
20 frustration when I pretended to be -- and I don't have to
21 pretend too much -- somebody with an alcohol problem who
22 went to your website just looking for a toll-free number
23 for somebody to talk to, we don't have one.

24 MR. TENNIS: Right.

25 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: We don't have one.

1 MR. TENNIS: That's a problem.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: And I think that's a
3 huge blockade.

4 Now, one more thing. These folks that are
5 dealing, these behavioral specialists, they are not
6 department, agency employees. They are contracted out, is
7 that correct?

8 MR. TENNIS: My understanding is there's a firm
9 in Louisiana that handles the 1-800-GAMBLER and this for
10 many States --

11 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay.

12 MR. TENNIS: -- quite a few States, so yes.
13 That's right.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: And do you feel that
15 that's more cost-effective than having specialists in-
16 house?

17 MR. TENNIS: I probably don't know enough to
18 answer that reliably, but I will say that when we looked at
19 having somebody in-house on gambling we looked at the
20 numbers we get, which are not sufficient to support that,
21 to make that reasonable.

22 That's what led into our discussion of what if we
23 had somebody -- we know we have a problem with the issue
24 you identified, which is that folks with a drug and alcohol
25 problem don't know where to go. We don't have an 800

1 number. We should have one. We don't have the resources
2 to set one up at this point, but I would like to.

3 We thought, because of the co-occurring nature of
4 gambling and substance use disorder, why not get one number
5 and really just hammer away at it in the public arena so
6 that everybody knows this number and we just spread it out.
7 All of the resources that go into putting out these various
8 numbers, we'd go -- and the attrition idea is a great idea
9 in terms of reducing the cost, especially given that they
10 all can channel into the same place.

11 But we were really looking at doing this in,
12 number one, a way that would be streamlined and more cost-
13 effective and in a way that we could have better quality
14 control maybe because we can manage it a little more
15 closely than with somebody that's handling it for various
16 States.

17 And it's an exploration, haven't had a chance to
18 speak with Josh or the folks at the Council about it to get
19 their thoughts, and I would like to. We're just kind of --
20 you know, seeing that New York has done it successfully, we
21 think it's worth a look.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Okay. Well, thank you
23 so much again. I think, Mr. Chairman, that we've heard
24 some great ideas here today on this topic, and I'm more
25 than willing to work with you, Representative Ortitay,

1 Secretary Tennis, and Representative DiGirolamo on any of
2 these issues, that we can consolidate this so that we can
3 do as much as possible to help as many Pennsylvanians as
4 possible who need our help.

5 MR. TENNIS: And one of the things I just have to
6 throw in the plug because it's true is we've been doing a
7 lot of work with warm handoff to treatment for overdose
8 survivors out of emergency departments. We've been doing
9 work and we're starting to get police engagement and
10 actually police officers doing interventions and getting
11 people, especially homeless folks with drug and alcohol
12 addiction into treatment.

13 Consistently, what we're hearing is you've got no
14 beds. So our resources, as we make it more workable for
15 people who need help, we have to make sure that the
16 resources are there both in terms of detox beds,
17 residential rehab, MAT, whatever. I mean, it's different
18 needs for each person clinically. But we have got to be
19 expanding our infrastructure. Right now, according to the
20 Federal Government, nationally we provide enough resources
21 to treat one person for every 10 with addiction.

22 So we have a mountain to climb, and we need to do
23 it. And when we do do it, we will be a safer, healthier
24 community with a lot less suffering than is going on right
25 now.

1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you,
2 Mr. Secretary. Thank you very much for your testimony.

3 MR. TENNIS: You bet.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Next, we have
5 Representative Jamie Santora's bill, House Bill 1925.
6 Josiah Shelly will give a brief overview.

7 MR. SHELLY: Currently, \$2 million is annually
8 transferred to the board to give local law enforcement
9 grants to combat illegal and unlawful gambling. The
10 Auditor General recently released a report that this grant
11 program goes unused, so in order to address that,
12 Representative Santora's bill would allow the State Police
13 to be eligible for these grants and to use these grants in
14 any municipality. Currently, they're limited to using
15 these grants in municipalities that do not have a local law
16 enforcement municipal police department.

17 The bill also says that funds that are not used
18 on an annual basis will be transferred to the Problem
19 Gambling and Treatment Fund.

20 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you, Josiah.

21 We have written testimony in our packets received
22 by the Pennsylvania State Police. Joining us this morning
23 is Kevin O'Toole, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Gaming
24 Control Board. Welcome back.

25 MR. O'TOOLE: My pleasure. Thank you very much,

1 Chairman Payne, Chairman Kotik, and Members of the House
2 Gaming Oversight Committee.

3 You've asked me to offer some comments on House
4 Bill 1925, and I'm very pleased to do that. We administer
5 the local law enforcement grant program. Any agency that
6 administers a grant program understands the difficulty of
7 that. It's a very serious proposition. You have money and
8 you want to make sure that that money is going out for the
9 intended purposes. You want to make sure that when the
10 grant term is over that it has been reasonably successful
11 in accomplishing the mission. And we've done an
12 outstanding job of overseeing this program to date.

13 It has been challenging to get enough applicants,
14 although in the eight years, a little bit over eight years
15 of the program, we've had 59 grantees. Some of them, a
16 certain percentage of them do renew, and we currently have
17 six active grants. And I believe we have one application
18 pending, and we've had several recent inquiries from law
19 enforcement agencies.

20 I do believe that in the 2010 amendments to the
21 Gaming Act there was restrictive language that kind of
22 geographically limited how the Pennsylvania State Police
23 would be able to use grant funds. So PSP chose not to
24 bring an application all the way to the end. So we've
25 never issued a grant to PSP because they felt that the

1 limiting language restricted their ability to use the funds
2 as effectively as they would like to.

3 So, you know, myself personally, I support the
4 change that will take out that limiting language. I
5 believe it will allow the Pennsylvania State Police, who
6 are very well trained in this area and do an excellent job,
7 that they would be able to take advantage of this grant
8 program.

9 And in terms of any uncommitted or unencumbered
10 funds and what should happen to those, that's clearly
11 within the purview of the Legislature, and however you
12 choose to do that, we certainly would follow those
13 instructions.

14 So thank you very much for allowing me to testify
15 this morning.

16 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you again.

17 Questions?

18 I just note that if there is excess money, it's
19 going to the Problem Gaming Fund. You guys have done an
20 outstanding job. I appreciate all the testimony that
21 you've been here for, all the hearings you've been here
22 for. We have a lot more coming up in the next two months
23 to try to get ready by June to have some legislation out on
24 the House Floor ready to move. So thank you very much.

25 MR. O'TOOLE: You're welcome. You keep us sharp.

1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: Thank you.

2 Josiah had a good comment. The written testimony
3 from the State Police, they do support the legislation.

4 And with that, Chairman Kotik, any questions or
5 comments?

6 DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN KOTIK: No.

7 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN PAYNE: This hearing's
8 adjourned. Thank you very much.

9

10 (The hearing concluded at 9:55 a.m.)

1 I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings
2 are a true and accurate transcription produced from audio
3 on the said proceedings and that this is a correct
4 transcript of the same.

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