



**Senate Budget & Tax Committee
February 28, 2024**

**Senate Bill 565 – Expansion of Commercial Gaming –
Internet Gaming Referendum**

Oppose

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-MD strongly opposes SB 565. We believe that making gambling as easy as picking up your phone at any hour of any day is a dangerous step, especially for young people.

Evidence is growing that shows more and more young people are accessing gambling activities online. While no one in this General Assembly is advocating for young people to gamble, we know they are gambling and access will increase.

We need more research related to mobile gaming. We need to learn lessons from other states and countries around the world. We should not be rushing into iGaming without understanding the impact and until we believe we have the resources to mitigate the harms it will lead to. We need this information so that voters can make an informed decision.

We respectfully oppose SB 565.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery.

reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.