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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2023

House Bill 802 - Institutions of Higher Education – Sports Wagering Contracts – Prohibition

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 802 - Institutions of Higher Education – Sports Wagering Contracts – Prohibition**, which would prohibit institutions of higher education from entering into a contract with a regulated gaming entity or agent of a regulated gaming entity if the institution of higher education receives certain compensation for student participation in sports wagering.

This legislation seeks to protect students from predatory entities that historically aid gambling addictions amongst students. College students are among the most vulnerable to compulsive gambling. Studies from 2007 to 2014 show that 75% to 80% of college students gambled in the previous year. That was prior to a 2018 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that expanded legal sports betting. Sponsorships with betting platforms could put students at increased risk, according to addiction experts. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, a great deal of students will be exposed to gambling promotion, and it will have the endorsement of their university.

As the topic of sports wagering contracts arise, institutions of higher education are charged with implementing problem gambling awareness campaigns, as well as assessing for gambling problems in their students and integrating prevention and brief treatment interventions to reduce the consequences of this disorder. The prohibition enforced by this bill would eliminate the need for such efforts.

House Bill 802 will ensure that Maryland institutions of higher education are not engaging in contracts with gaming entities involved in sports wagering. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 802 - Institutions of Higher Education – Sports Wagering Contracts – Prohibition**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins