



**House Ways & Means Committee
February 29, 2024**

House Bill 1218 – State Lottery – Internet Sales Authorization and Distribution of Proceeds

Oppose

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-MD strongly opposes HB 1218. 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.

Playing the lottery has consistently been the most common type of gambling that Marylanders participate in since 2010. The lottery is just as addictive as every other type of gambling and making it accessible around the clock at people's fingertips will only increase the problems that accompany it.

Further, we have concerns about this regulatory agency actively participating in the industry it is regulating. The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency is tasked with the core mission to generate revenue in Maryland. It may be premature to allow this Agency to significantly expand its operations without also considering oversight.

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 online lottery ticket buying without understanding the impact and until we believe we have the resources to mitigate the harms it will lead to.

We respectfully oppose HB 1218.

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.