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March 5, 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 982 – Sports Wagering – Wagers on Historical Horse Races – Authorization

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (Center) opposes *Senate Bill 982 – Sports Wagering – Wagers on Historical Horse Races – Authorization.* This bill would allow a sports wagering facility licensee to accept in-person wagers on historical horse races, essentially expanding gambling opportunities in Maryland.

As the only public health organization in the state that is solely focused on promoting healthy and informed choices regarding gambling and problem gambling, the Center connects with hundreds of Marylanders every year who are seeking help for themselves or a loved one struggling with gambling responsibly. The Center does not support expanding gambling at this time in Maryland.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB 982. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Drexler at <u>mdrexler@som.umaryland.edu</u>.

Sincerely,

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