

**CRAIG J. ZUCKER**  
*Legislative District 14*  
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 120  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 706- Gaming - Problem Gambling - Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue-  
Funding**  
**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**2:00pm**  
**Position: Favorable**

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of SB 706 - Gaming - Problem Gambling - Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue**. I would like to thank my co-sponsor, Chair Guzzone, for his support of this important initiative. This bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 878, passed by the Senate last year.

Senate Bill 706 would direct 1% of sports wagering revenues to the Problem Gaming Fund. This allocation would not affect the 15% distribution to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund (BMFF). As a result, fantasy competition operators and sports wagering licensees would retain 84% of their revenues instead of the current 85%.

The bill also requires the Department of Health to conduct comprehensive prevalence studies on problem and pathological mobile gambling, with the initial study to be completed by July 1, 2030, and follow-up studies conducted at least every five years thereafter. Furthermore, the Secretary of Health would be required to submit an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly detailing how funds are being utilized by the Problem Gaming Program for treatment and prevention programs, ensuring accountability and efficacy.

Senate Bill 706 will ensure that Maryland takes proactive steps in addressing problem gambling while maintaining responsible gaming industry practices. I respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 706**. Thank you for your consideration.