



SB 86 - Online Sports Wagering - Problem Gambling Resources - Required Contact Information

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Date: 1/13/25

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides family peer support services at no cost to families who have a loved one with a mental health, substance use, or problem gambling disorder. Using their personal experience as parents, caregivers and other loved ones, our staff provide emotional support, resource connection and systems navigation as well as support groups and educational trainings and workshops.

Last year, we served nearly 5,000 Families, and 2% of the families served were caregivers of a loved one with problem gambling, and the numbers continue to increase.

- Here at MCF, we have seen a troubling rise in gambling behaviors among school-aged children and young adults. The stigma surrounding gambling, particularly for college-aged students, can make it difficult for young people to seek help. There has been a rising number of college students and online sports wagering. So many people see problem gambling as a financial problem, not a behavioral health one, which contributes to uncertainty about where they should turn to for help.
- Educating and providing resources such as The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling helps people get help sooner. Ensuring this resource is on the home page of these mobile applications and websites will reduce stigma and provide information for



support as soon as the homepage appears, which could help someone who may be struggling.

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