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March 11, 2025

Ways and Means Committee 130 Taylor House Office Building 131 Taylor House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1048 – Sports Wagering – Wagers on Historical Horse Races – Authorization

Dear Chair Atterbeary:

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (Center) opposes *House Bill 1048* – *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 HB 1048. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Drexler at <u>mdrexler@som.umaryland.edu</u>.

Sincerely,

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