



February 6, 2025

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

RE: HB 465 – Gaming - Problem Gambling and College Athlete Protections

Dear Chair Atterbeary:

This letter is in support of *House Bill 465 – Gaming - Problem Gambling and College Athlete Protections*. This bill, among other things, requires the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to provide contact information of individuals that request to be placed on the voluntary exclusion list to the Maryland Center for Excellence on Problem Gambling (Center).

Currently, when a person signs up for the state's Voluntary Exclusion Program, they must proactively request a call from the Center; if this bill passes, a person would automatically be contacted when they sign up. When a person is contacted by the Center, they speak to a Peer Recovery Support Specialist with lived experience who is in active recovery from gambling addiction. Each Peer is certified by the Maryland Addiction and Behavioral-health Professionals Certification Board and must protect the privacy and confidentiality of people served in adherence with federal confidentiality, HIPAA laws, local jurisdiction, and state laws and regulations. Peer support is an effective, evidence-based practice that supports each helpseeker's chances of success in meeting and exceeding their goals.

We expect that more people will benefit from the services that the Center provides if this bill is passed. We urge a favorable report. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Drexler at [mdrexler@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:mdrexler@som.umaryland.edu).

Sincerely,

Mary Drexler, MSW