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

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

Dear Chair Atterbeary:

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center) supports *Senate Bill 86 – Online Sports Wagering - Problem Gambling Resources - Required Contact Information*.

Maryland law currently does not have such a strong player protection for online and mobile sports bettors as is described in this bill. The Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission has promulgated responsible gambling regulations for sports betting licensees. Relevant regulations are codified in COMAR 36.10.10.03 and reads in part, "A sports wagering licensee shall ensure that the gambling assistance message is conspicuous and readable." Each website seems to require the player to scroll down for pages before finding any responsible gambling messaging and do not link to the Center. This bill improves existing Maryland law by its prescriptive messaging and directing helpseekers to the Center's website. The Center is the only organization in Maryland that is charged with providing a free and confidential 24-hour helpline for those struggling with problems due to gambling. When a person is directed to the Center's website they can call or text for immediate assistance. No other organization in Maryland can help in that way.

This bill will improve upon the pre-existing responsible gambling requirements of the state. For this reason, the Center urges a favorable report on this bill as amended. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Drexler at 667-214-2121 or mdrexler@som.umaryland.edu.

Sincerely,

Mary Drexler, MSW

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