



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
AGAINST iGAMING**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1409

National Association Against iGaming (NAAiG)

March 3, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Association Against iGaming (NAAiG), we respectfully submit this testimony **in support** of House Bill 1409.

HB 1409 represents a prudent and responsible step forward by requiring the Maryland Department of Health to study the prevalence of mobile gambling addiction and pathological gambling, and to report transparently on how Problem Gambling Fund dollars are spent. As mobile wagering continues to expand, policymakers must ensure that public health data keeps pace with technological change. This bill does exactly that.

Maryland has already witnessed the rapid growth of mobile sports wagering. Unlike traditional, destination-based gambling, mobile platforms operate 24/7 on smartphones — devices that are constant, private, and frictionless. That accessibility fundamentally changes risk exposure. It increases frequency of play, reduces natural stopping points, and creates a digital environment designed to maximize engagement.

Before expanding into additional forms of online gambling, it is essential that lawmakers have current, Maryland-specific data on problem gambling prevalence, treatment demand, and fiscal mitigation costs.

HB 1409 provides that guardrail. It ensures that policy decisions are informed by independent health analysis rather than industry revenue projections.

Equally important, the bill strengthens transparency regarding the use of Problem Gambling Fund resources. If the state is collecting funds intended to mitigate gambling-related harm, the public deserves clarity on how those dollars are allocated and whether they are meeting measurable outcomes.

This is not an anti-gaming measure. It is a pro-accountability and pro-public health measure. Maryland has an obligation to understand the full impact of mobile gambling before considering further expansion. HB 1409 provides the data, oversight, and transparency necessary to protect Maryland families while ensuring informed policymaking.

For these reasons, NAAiG respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1409.

Respectfully submitted,

Oliver Barie

Director of Government Affairs, NAAiG