

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 2384

Jonathan Krutz, National Board President  
Stop Predatory Gambling Foundation  
March 17, 2025

Dear Chair Klemin and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Stop Predatory Gambling Foundation offers testimony in support of Senate Bill 2384.

Our national organization provides education on the negative impacts of products whose profits depend on exploiting people who are prone to gambling addiction. Online gambling such as advance-deposit wagering on dog racing is one such product.

Gambling addiction is recognized by the American Psychiatric Association<sup>1</sup> as on par with addictions to heroine, meth, cocaine, and opioids. Gambling addiction leads to higher suicide rates<sup>2</sup> than any of the substance abuse addictions.

Online forms of gambling, instantly available 24-7 on cell phones, remove time and geography limits on gambling activities, making such activities an irresistible temptation to the addiction-prone.

Online gambling has been shown by studies in Alberta,<sup>3</sup> Connecticut,<sup>4</sup> and New Jersey,<sup>5</sup> to receive more than 80 percent of its revenue from gamblers who meet one or more gambling addiction criteria.

This bill removes online simulcast dog racing from North Dakota law and further specifies that bets or wagers on dog races may not be offered. For this reason, we are testifying in favor of Senate Bill 2384.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> American Psychiatric Association, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), 2023  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gambling-disorder/what-is-gambling-disorder>

<sup>2</sup> Manning V, Koh PK, Yang Y, Ng A, Guo S, Kandasami G, et al. Suicidal ideation and lifetime attempts in substance and gambling disorders. *Psychiatry Res.* (2015) 225:706–9.

<sup>3</sup> Williams, R. J., Belanger, Y., & Arthur, J. (2011). *Gambling in Alberta: History, Current Status and Socioeconomic Impacts*. Alberta Gaming Research Institute (p 110). <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/bitstreams/14831e8c-cd5f-427e-937c-4e9ea1ebc522/download>

<sup>4</sup> Gemini Research. (2024). Impacts of Legalized Gambling in Connecticut. Report commissioned by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), January 2024 (p 20).  
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/Publications/2023-CT-FINAL-REPORT-Jan312024.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://straighttothepoint.substack.com/p/pulling-back-the-vip-curtain>