

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:00 a.m. on January 20 , 2000 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Donna Doolin, Ks Coalition of Problem Gamblers, St. Francis Hospital
Joyce Markham, Ks Coalition of Problem Gamblers, St. Francis Hospital
Andrea Martin, Individual
Betty Messman, Consumer Credit Counseling

Others attending: See attached sheet

Chairman Oleen recognized Senator Vratil. Senator Vratil introduced Jessica Corcoran, a junior at the University of Kansas who will be serving as his legislative assistant during this legislative session.

Senator Oleen introduced Travis Lenkner, a junior at Kansas State University, who will be serving as her legislative assistant this session.

Chairman Oleen announced that the committee would be hearing discussion on compulsive gamblers and called on members of the Kansas Coalition on Problem Gambling to address the committee.

Donna Doolin, was recognized by Chairman Oleen. Donna Doolin, President of Kansas Coalition on Problem Gambling, stated that she is also a certified compulsive gambling counselor affiliated with St. Francis Chemical Dependence Treatment Services of St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center. Ms. Doolin introduced the other members of the Coalition who would be addressing the committee. (Attachment 1)

Joyce Markham, certified compulsive gambling counselor and family therapist at St. Francis Chemical Dependence Treatment Services, stated that for 7% of all gamblers, gambling does become a problem and for 1-2%, gambling will result in compulsive behavior. She stated that there are two distinct populations that are of concern - adolescents and the elderly. Joyce Markham stated that gambling does not involve only the casinos and the lottery. Bankcards, internet gambling, sports betting and commodity and stock market speculation all have contributed to high rates of debts. She stated that it is time to respond to the negative consequences that problem gambling presents.

Andrea Martin, an individual, appeared before the committee detailing her encounter as a spouse of a compulsive gambler and how it affected the family, their children and herself. Andrea stated that finding treatment for her husband had been difficult because there are so few treatment centers available. Her husband was able to receive treatment through the St. Francis Chemical Dependency Treatment Center because he had insurance that would cover it. Andrea Martin stated that many people were not so fortunate and did not have insurance that would cover the treatment and could not afford it personally.

Betty Messman, a certified consumer credit counselor with Housing and Credit Counseling appeared before the committee. Betty Messman stated that Housing and Credit Counseling is aware of the relationship between problem gambling, debt consolidation and bankruptcy. She stated that efforts are being made locally and nationally to provide more education to counselors to handle problem gamblers when they come for help. Betty Messman ask the committee to consider legislation that will put a percentage of legalized gambling revenue into a dedicated fund to help finance treatment programs for problem gamblers and for prevention/education.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 254-E Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. on January 20, 2000.

Donna Dooling supplied statistics to the committee from the National Gambling Impact Study Commission on the impact of gambling on the United States. She also provided information on the number of people from Kansas who used the Texas toll-free number to request information for their gambling problem. Donna Doolin stated that the Kansas Coalition on Problem Gambling proposes the establishment of a funding mechanism for problem gambling treatment and prevention/education.

In response to questions from the committee members about the use of the Texas toll-free number and how people obtained this number, Donna Dooling stated that several states use this toll-free number, Kansas being one, and that the number is printed on Kansas Lottery scratch tickets. There are currently only two qualified gambling addiction counselors in the Topeka area.

Mr. Martin spoke to the committee concerning his compulsive gambling and his treatment and the success of the treatment of the problem in response to several questions from the committee.

Chairman Oleen thanked the members of the Coalition for appearing before the committee and requested that Donna Dooling provide a list of the people and organizations that are participating in the Coalition on Problem Gambling for the members of the committee.

Chairman Oleen stated that she would like to have the committee look at HB 2013 in regard to the provision concerning allocation of funding to problem gambling programs.

Chairman Oleen ask for action on committee minutes for January 18, 2000. Senator Becker moved to approve the minutes for January 18. Senator Biggs seconded the motion; the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 25,2000 at 11:00 a.m.