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Rawson, Raymond Senator

From: Kmkvegas@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2003 5:14 PM
To: wraggio@sen.state.nv.us; rrawson@sen.state.nv.us; BCegavske@sen.state.nv.us;
bcoffin@sen.state.nv.us; bmathews@sen.state.nv.us; stiffany@sen.state.nv.us
Subject: SB 349

Dear Senator Raggio and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 349. I understand that the committee will consider the bill tomorrow morning at which time Bo Bernard, Ph.D. will be testifying. Due to court commitments, I will be unable to be physically present in Carson City for your hearing; nevertheless, I wanted to voice my support for this bill.

I became involved as a member of the Board of Directors for Problem Gambling Center because of my embarrassment that Nevada was virtually the only state in the country that failed to provide treatment for those involved with gambling addiction. Having practiced criminal law in the state of Nevada for approximately 25 years and having seen many individuals with gambling addiction, it became apparent to me that a nonprofit organization for the treatment of gambling addiction was not only needed, but was essential.

There are numerous facilities within the state of Nevada for those individuals who are addicted due to alcoholism. The Salvation Army and WestCare are but two facilities that assist individuals unable to afford the more traditional treatment centers. However, there are no such facilities for the individuals suffering from gambling addiction. There are ample services available for the education of the public as it relates to problem gambling, but the same is not true for actual treatment. The program offered by Rob Hunter, Ph.D., Fred Fisher, Ph.D. and Dr. Bernard is the only nonprofit facility in the state to offer assistance to individuals unable to afford more traditional services. The reality is that Dr. Hunter's program, and he personally, has been recognized both nationally and internationally.

I am fully aware that fiscal concerns are of primary importance to this committee particularly in light of revenue shortfalls within the state. Notwithstanding this difficulty, I honestly do not believe that the state of Nevada, known as a gambling mecca within this country and around the world, can fail to match funds in such other jurisdictions as Iowa (2.2 million budgeted), Texas (4 million budgeted), or Connecticut (835,000 budgeted in 1997). These figures may have changed from what I have been shown over the past year but they are indicative to what other states have done, and are doing, presently.

I strongly urge you to act favorably on SB 349.

Kevin M. Kelly, Esq.
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Date: 3-26-03 Page 1 of 2

Rawson, Raymond Senator

From: Geoffrey Stormzand [geoffreyj@stormzand.com]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2003 5:47 PM
To: rrawson@sen.state.nv.us
Subject: Senate Bill 349

Senator Rawson:

I am writing to to express my feelings regarding Senate Bill 349, Funding for the treatment, certification of Professionals, and education about pathological gambling.

Pathological gambling effects many people here in Nevada. these people span the economic and social spectrum. Our state makes it's living from the proceeds generated by the gaming industry. It is shameful that we are the only state that provides no funding in this area.

I know that you are the sponsor of this bill and I urge you to pass this bill in it's current form.

Thank You

Geoffrey Stormzand
Henderson
702.493.9400