

November 16, 2004

Dear Senator _____:

We are writing to urge you to pass S. 627, a bill designed to curb Internet gambling by attacking the problem of sports gambling on the Internet. The undersigned groups believe that this legislation represents an important step in the long overdue effort to halt Internet gambling. We are concerned that the Internet represents a new opportunity for Americans, especially our youth, to gamble. We have seen an explosion of Internet gambling, especially in the area of amateur and professional sports, which clearly threatens the Congressional policy, embodied in the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), to prohibit such gambling activity. Congress has debated this issue for eight years, and during that time Internet sports gambling has grown dramatically. S. 627, the "Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act," will assist the effort to stop Internet sports gambling, which represents a lure for many young people to try gambling.

We are especially concerned about the ethics of sports betting or wagering via the internet. Gambling can cast a shadow on the integrity of organized sports and results in the loss of billions of American dollars each year. Furthermore, because the Internet can be used anonymously, the danger exists that access to Internet gambling will be abused by underage gamblers, our children and youth. The high-speed instant gratification of Internet games and the high level of privacy they offer can instigate or exacerbate problem and pathological gambling and addict persons at a very young age and possibly for a lifetime. This results in more than \$5 billion a year in related societal costs including bankruptcy, job loss, unemployment, poor physical and mental health, arrests and imprisonment. The questionable ethics, misuse of money, and exposure of our young people to new and easier ways to gamble is a contradiction to the values we espouse as an American society and is contrary to good stewardship of our money.

Nearly forty years of experience under The Wire Act and PASPA teaches us that enforcement is the key to implementing successful anti-gambling legislation. Internet gambling enterprises often operate outside of the United States and have sophisticated methods to avoid detection. As a result, law enforcement must be given the right resources to combat Internet gambling. An enforcement mechanism preventing online gambling entities from collecting their bets by cutting off credit card and other forms of electronic payment could put these gambling ventures out of business.

The undersigned groups are committed to eliminating Internet sports gambling and urge you to support S. 627, the “Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act.”

Sincerely

The National Football League
Major League Baseball
National Collegiate Athletic

Association

National Basketball Association
The Christian Coalition
Concerned Women for America
Family Research Council
Focus on the Family
Presbyterian Church USA
Southern Baptist Convention
General Board of Church and
United

Society of the
Methodist Church