112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2334

To amend the Public Health Service Act to specifically include, in programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, programs to research, prevent, and treat the harmful consequences of pathological and other problem gambling, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 23, 2011

Mr. Moran (for himself, Ms. Berkley, Mr. Hastings of Florida, and Mr. Wolf) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to specifically include, in programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, programs to research, prevent, and treat the harmful consequences of pathological and other problem gambling, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Comprehensive Prob-
- 5 lem Gambling Act of 2011".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress makes the following findings:

- 1 (1) Problem gambling is a public health dis-2 order characterized by increasing preoccupation with 3 gambling, loss of control, restlessness or irritability 4 when attempting to stop gambling, and continuation 5 of the gambling behavior in spite of mounting, seri-6 ous, negative consequences.
 - (2) Over 6,000,000 adults met criteria for a gambling problem last year.
 - (3) The estimated social cost to families and communities from bankruptcy, divorce, job loss, and criminal justice costs associated with problem gambling was \$6,700,000,000 last year.
 - (4) Problem gambling is associated with higher incidences of bankruptcy, domestic abuse, and suicide.
 - (5) People who engage in problem gambling have high rates of co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.
 - (6) In response to current budget shortfalls, many States are considering enacting or have enacted legislation to expand legal gambling activities with the intent of raising State revenues.
 - (7) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is the lead Federal agency for substance abuse and mental health services.

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1	(8) There are no agencies or individuals in the
2	Federal Government with formal responsibility for
3	problem gambling.
4	SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AUTHORITY TO TREAT GAMBLING IN
5	SAMHSA AUTHORITIES.
6	Section 501(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42
7	U.S.C. 290aa(d)) is amended—
8	(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph
9	(17);
10	(2) by striking the period at the end of para-
11	graph (18) and inserting "; and"; and
12	(3) by adding at the end the following:
13	"(19) establish and implement programs for the
14	prevention, treatment, and research of pathological
15	and other problem gambling.".
16	SEC. 4. PROGRAMS TO RESEARCH, PREVENT, AND ADDRESS
17	PROBLEM GAMBLING.
18	Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
19	290aa et seq.) is amended—
20	(1) by redesignating part G (42 U.S.C. 290kk
21	et seq.), relating to services provided through reli-
22	gious organizations and added by section 144 of the
23	Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (114
24	Stat. 2763A-619), as enacted into law by section
25	1(a)(7) of Public Law 106–554, as part J;

1	(2) by redesignating sections 581 through 584
2	of that part J as sections 596 through 596C, respec-
3	tively; and
4	(3) by adding at the end the following:
5	"PART K—PROGRAMS TO RESEARCH, PREVENT,
6	AND ADDRESS PROBLEM GAMBLING
7	"SEC. 597. PUBLIC AWARENESS.
8	"(a) In General.—The Secretary, acting through
9	the Administrator, shall carry out a national campaign to
10	increase knowledge and raise awareness within the general
11	public with respect to problem gambling issues. In car-
12	rying out the campaign, the Secretary shall carry out ac-
13	tivities that include augmenting and supporting existing
14	(as of the date of the support) national campaigns and
15	producing and placing public service announcements.
16	"(b) Voluntary Donations.—In carrying out sub-
17	section (a), the Secretary may—
18	"(1) coordinate the voluntary donation of, and
19	administer, resources to assist in the implementation
20	of new programs and the augmentation and support
21	of existing national campaigns to provide national
22	strategies for dissemination of information, intended
23	to treat problem gambling, from—
24	"(A) television, radio, motion pictures,
25	cable communications, and the print media:

1	"(B) the advertising industry;
2	"(C) the business sector of the United
3	States; and
4	"(D) professional sports organizations and
5	associations; and
6	"(2) encourage media outlets throughout the
7	country to provide information, aimed at preventing
8	problem gambling, including public service an-
9	nouncements, documentary films, and advertise-
10	ments.
11	"(c) Focus.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Sec-
12	retary shall target radio and television audiences of events
13	including sporting and gambling events.
14	"(d) Evaluation.—In carrying out subsection (a),
15	the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of activities
16	under this section. The Secretary shall submit a report
17	to the President and Congress containing the results of
18	the evaluation.
19	"SEC. 597A. RESEARCH.
20	"(a) In General.—The Secretary, acting through
21	the Administrator, shall establish and implement a na-
22	tional program of research on problem gambling.
23	"(b) National Gambling Impact Study Commis-
24	SION REPORT.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary
25	shall consider the recommendations that appear in chapter

- 1 8 of the June 18, 1999, report of the National Gambling
- 2 Impact Study Commission.
- 3 "SEC. 597B. TREATMENT.
- 4 "The Secretary shall develop a treatment improve-
- 5 ment protocol specific to problem gambling.
- 6 "SEC. 597C. PREVENTION.
- 7 "The Secretary, acting through the Administrator,
- 8 shall integrate problem gambling into existing alcohol, to-
- 9 bacco and other drug prevention programs, where prac-
- 10 tical.".

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