

# ONLINE SPORTS GAMBLING WOULD HURT FAMILIES

Online sports gambling is a state-sanctioned consumer fraud scheme that will transfer billions of dollars of wealth from Minnesota to out-of-state gambling companies.



## STOP GAMBLING EXPANSION

Sports gambling, especially online betting, poses severe risks to individuals, families, and society, particularly the poor and vulnerable. As Pope Leo XIV has warned, gambling can become a destructive addiction, exploiting those most at risk.



It is dangerous to put a sports book (and, eventually, a casino) in every person's cell phone, giving them 24/7 access to an addictive and personally destructive habit.

### A Fraud Scheme

According to a massive study of online sports gambling, fewer than five percent of gamblers took out more money than they put into the apps.<sup>1</sup> The business model provides incentive cash because the more you bet, the more you lose.

<sup>1</sup>[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4856684](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4856684)

### Preying on the Vulnerable

Online sports betting companies use data to manipulate gamblers based on betting practices. They are not safe spaces for betting but instead predators manipulating people through push notifications and their algorithm.

### Hurts Household Finances

Sports gambling leads to lower credit scores, higher debt, and higher rates of bankruptcy. The rate of gambling problems among sports bettors is at least twice as high as it is for other gamblers.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://stateline.org/2024/12/05/growth-of-sports-betting-may-be-linked-to-financial-woes-new-studies-find/>

# MINNESOTANS WILL BEAR THE COST BUT RECEIVE NO BENEFIT

The bills to legalize online sports betting in Minnesota do not account for the social costs of increased poverty, family fragmentation, substance abuse, addiction, and domestic violence. Instead, the tax revenue generated is mostly redistributed to gambling stakeholders and not the general fund. The state could actually lose money by legalizing online sports betting. **Minnesota taxpayers will be left to pick up the pieces for families.**

**56,000**

Minnesotans suffer from disordered or problem gambling

**162,000**

Minnesotans are at risk of becoming problem gamblers

**200,000**

Minnesotans are affected by problem gambling

\*According to a 2020 Minnesota Department of Human Services study\*



Up to half of individuals in treatment for gambling disorder have suicidal ideation, and about 17% (one in five) have attempted suicide.

\*According to the National Council on Compulsive Gambling\*

Gambling in general has massive “economic substitution costs.” This means that **dollars spent on gambling leave the productive economy** and enter a closed competition between gamblers and the casinos, or house, where they compete for those dollars. Ultimately, the house always wins in the long-term.

We don't need to create commercial sports books for the privileged few who can afford such entertainment while the majority of gamblers lose. **Tell your legislators to oppose any efforts to legalize online sports betting.**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE ACTION**



**Gambling proponents are opposed to the most basic consumer protections to curb the most addictive forms of sports gambling:**

- The laws include in-game or “prop betting,” where fans can make multiple wagers on the outcome of specific occurrences within a sporting event, **encouraging users to gamble more than they would have.**
- Sports betting platforms make more than **half their profits through the five percent of the most active and addicted gamblers.**



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