

Patty Locuratolo Hymanson
York
LD 2080

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Greetings to Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Patty Locuratolo Hymanson, I live in York, am a neurologist and past-Maine State Representative 2015-2022, former House Chair of HHS and member of AFA.

I am writing in support of LD2080, An Act to Create a Universal Exclusion List for All Forms of Gambling in the State.

This bill would allow Mainers to voluntarily exclude themselves from any slot machine facility or ^[1]~~[SEP]~~ casino, advance deposit wagering, fantasy contest or sports wagering. This is an important step for someone who has a gambling addiction or has suffered some despair because of personal gambling behavior. While it is not clear to me how exactly people who self-exclude are found if they present to a gambling site, the self-declaration is an important step in healing and sites must exclude them.

Recently, on 11/29/23, NEWS CENTER Maine reported that in New Hampshire where sports betting went live in 2019 “sports betting calls beat those related to casinos and the lottery.” Said Executive Director of NH Council on Problem Gambling Ed Talbot, “Sports betting moved from third pre-pandemic to first place in the number of calls we’ve received from identified problem gamblers.” It was the reason for a large 47% of the help line calls in NH, according to this report.

Voluntary exclusion occurs after the despair of gambling addiction has taken hold. Please support 211 and evidence-based efforts at prevention as well as this bill. There will be an increased need now that sports betting is legal in Maine. ^[1]~~[SEP]~~
Thank you for continued work on Mainers’ behalf.