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Legislative Testimony
Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
Milton F. Champion III – Executive Director
Gambling Control Unit
Department of Public Safety
January 17, 2024, 9:00 Am, Room 437, State House

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Distinguished Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I am Milton Champion, Executive Director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety. I am here today on behalf of the Department of Public Safety to testify "In Favor of" LD 2080 which is "An Act to Create a Universal Exclusion List for All Forms of Gambling in the State". And I thank Representative Malon for sponsoring this important measure.

Currently the exclusion on the programs within the state of Maine are separated. There are legacy lists from the two casinos who held their own lists until 2012. Then the Gambling Control Board started the state list which we have today for the two casinos. However, without law change those on the casino lists remain separate from the new state list which has been challenging. The change to move them to the universal state list is a part of this measure.

Then in 2017, we added Fantasy Contests that directed licensees to provide measures to allow patrons to restrict themselves from wagering. In 2020, we added Sports Wagering with a completely different identification of exclusion by calling it the unauthorized persons list. And finally last year we changed Advance Deposit Wagering license opportunities which do not include the opportunity to exclude from betting on horse races.

This bill brings all areas into the opportunity for someone to exclude from one gambling opportunity or all four areas: Casino, ADW, Fantasy and Sports Wagering. The bill also includes provisions for those individuals to be excluded involuntarily by the Gambling Control Board from the ability to gamble at a slot machine facility, casino, advance deposit wagering, a fantasy contest or sports wagering, when necessary. It will fall under the oversight of the Gambling Control Board.

And finally, as a part of interest, we have initiated with casino and sports wagering activities the ability to sign up online through AdCare. And a part of the removal from the list requires an exit session completed with AdCare as well. They have been a great partner with the Gambling Control Board and Unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M.G." followed by a horizontal flourish.