

Federal Legislation Proposed To Support Problem Gambling Prevention, Awareness

For the first time ever, federal legislation has been proposed to establish funding for prevention, research and treatment of problem gambling to state non-profit organizations. The bill, House Resolution (HR) 6009, is expected to provide more than \$71 million over a five-year period for problem gambling programs.

Massachusetts Congressman Marty Meehan introduced the bill, known as the Comprehensive Awareness of Problem Gambling Act of 2006, earlier this year. Missouri Congressman William Lacy Clay of St. Louis is a co-sponsor of the bill. Clay was not available for comment on his support of the bill.

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is strongly supporting this bill and is seeking local support from each state.

"Members of Congress are responsive to individuals in their district and state, so this will be the first real test of our ability, as the national

grassroots advocates for problem gamblers and their families, to communicate a strong and positive message," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council.

"I believe this is the first time in the history



National Council
on Problem Gambling

of the United States that a bill to specifically provide federal funding for problem gambling treatment has been introduced," he continued.

According to Whyte, if passed, the federal bill will provide \$14.2 million in grants per year to non-profit and state agencies for the prevention, research and treatment of problem gambling. The bill does not expand, restrict or tax state gambling operations, but will provide support at the state level to help problem gamblers and their families.

For more information about the proposed bill, visit 888betsoff.org.

New Campaign Promotes Help Line, Hope



"Hope for You and Yours" is the slogan for the newest problem gambling awareness campaign available from the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling (Alliance). The new campaign, introduced this fall, features brochures and three different sizes of posters.

The campaign brings awareness back to the help line, according to Gary Gonder, director of communications for the Missouri Lottery and vice chairperson of the Alliance.

"Our first campaign, 'Numbers,' put the emphasis on our help line," Gonder said. "We were just starting out and felt that our main focus should be to build awareness of the help line.

"This new campaign puts the emphasis back on the help line number, but it also includes a positive message of hope," he continued.

To order copies for your business, school or office, send your request to betsoff@molottery.com. The posters and brochures are free to Missouri residents and businesses.

2006 Midwest Conference Draws Record Attendance

With nearly 300 people in attendance, the 2006 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse set a new attendance record. The third annual conference, held Aug. 16-18 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, was a huge success, according to conference organizers.

"The feedback we received from conference attendees was very positive," said Melissa Stephens, a conference organizer and problem gambling program administrator for the Missouri Gaming Commission. "We had people from throughout the country attend the conference this year. It provided a great forum for an exchange of ideas."

The 2006 conference featured: Dr. H. Westley Clark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Robert Ladouceur, professor of psychology at Université Laval in Quebec City; and Loreen Rugle, coordinator of the Gambling Treatment Program at the Louis Stokes Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Nora Bock, program specialist for the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, said that 42 of Missouri's certified compulsive gambling counselors attended the Midwest Conference and received some or all of the 18 continuing education units available through the conference.

"We had very good attendance from among our counselors," Bock said. "Our counselors have always been supportive of training that we've offered in the state. I think they appreciate the opportunity to attend a high-quality conference so close to home."

Plans are now underway for the 2007 National Council on Problem Gambling conference to be held June 9-11, 2007, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 W. 12th St. in Kansas City. Conference news will be included in upcoming issues of the Bets Off Bulletin and on the Alliance's Web site at www.betsoff.org.

Message From Alliance Chairperson - Keith Spare

MISSOURI ALLIANCE
TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

Fall is here and the winds of change are again blowing. With federal legislative actions against Internet gambling, federal legislation introduced to fund \$71 million for problem gambling treatment and prevention (HR 6009) and articles in the newspapers daily, there is much to keep up on with regard to gambling. Although it seems just days ago that I returned from the June National Conference on Problem Gambling in St. Paul, Minn., and the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse here in Kansas City in August, now we are well into October and planning the 2007 Conference of the National Council on Problem Gambling that will be here in Kansas City.

Now is the time to start checking both the www.888betsoff.org and the www.ncpgambling.org Web sites on a weekly basis. Plans are underway for the national conference, and these sites will be updated with pertinent information as it becomes available. Also, whether you are involved in the gambling industry, the recovering community, the treatment community, the legislative or regulatory communities or a member of the general public, now is a good time to get better informed about problem gambling. For those of us in the Midwest, there has never been a better opportunity to join in the dialogue with those who know. They are all coming to town in June 2007.

The conference will be at the downtown Marriott Hotel. I cannot guarantee that we will have all of the answers, but I do expect there will be much attention to the relevant questions of the day and the answers leading experts, both professional and lay people, have to offer. The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling and its members are primary sponsors of the conference, along with the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns and the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse. This consortium includes representatives from the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. As chair of the Alliance, chair of the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns and co-chair of the conference, I invite everyone to help make this conference a record-breaking event for attendance, content and sponsorship.

Most importantly, let's roll out the best Midwest hospitality that the National Council on Problem Gambling has ever experienced. There will be barbecue, music, good food and more information than you can shake a stick at. I thank all of the Alliance, the Consortium, neighboring states and members of the MCPGC in advance for doing all that we can to support this event. The bottom line is to address the very real issues and needs of those who are affected by problem gambling.

Upcoming Alliance Events

Nov. 5-7

Missouri School Counselors Association annual conference in Osage Beach

Nov. 12-14

Building Bridges conference in Osage Beach

Nov. 16-17

Missouri State Teachers Association annual conference in Kansas City

2007

March 5-11

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week

June 9-11

21st Annual National Council on Problem Gambling Conference in Kansas City

Need A Speaker?

The Alliance provides speakers for groups and organizations throughout the state on topics ranging from the prevention of youth gambling to the warning signs of problem gambling. For more information about the speakers' bureau or to arrange a presentation, please call (573) 526-7467 or (573) 522-1373.

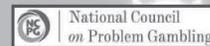
All presentations are free of charge.

Got A Story Idea?

Do you have a story idea for the next *Betsoff Bulletin*, or would you like to write a story for the next issue? There's a lot going on in Missouri concerning problem gambling, and we would like to include as much as possible in the *Bulletin* and on our Web site, so please be sure to pass on any ideas you may have.

To suggest story ideas for the *Bulletin* or the Web site, contact the editor, Shelly Perez, at betsoff@molottery.com or call (573) 526-7467.

"Goin' To Kansas City"



Present the

21st Annual Conference on Prevention, Research and Treatment of Problem Gambling:

Improving Practice and Managing Consequences for Problem
Gambling, Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Issues.

Save the Date!!!

June 9-11, 2007

Kansas City Marriott Downtown
200 W. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO

Please check the Midwest Conference Web site (www.888betsoff.org/links/midwest_conference.shtm) or the NCPG Web site (www.ncpgambling.org) for the forthcoming 2007 information, including exciting opportunities for attendees and the Presenter Guide with detailed instructions for paper submission.

Spare Named As New Alliance Chair

Keith Spare, chairperson of the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., recently was named the chairperson of the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling. Spare assumed the yearlong leadership role in August, replacing outgoing chairperson Joanne Collins of the Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri.

Gary Gonder, director of communications for the Missouri Lottery, was named as the vice chairperson.

Spare said he is looking forward to the Alliance helping to host the 2007 National Council on Problem Gambling's conference to be held June 9-11, 2007, in Kansas City.

"One of our top priorities is to make the 2007 conference very successful," Spare said.

"We're also always looking to expand the safety net for Missouri's problem gamblers and their family members," he added. "Missouri has a lot of wonderful programs for problem gamblers, but there's always room for improvement and growth, and we will be working hard to do that this year."

This is Spare's second term as the Alliance's chairperson.



Keith Spare

McNary Named As Director Of Gaming Commission

A former St. Louis County executive and former commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service was named as the new executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission. Gene McNary of St. Louis took over the reigns of the Gaming Commission on July 17.

McNary's selection was unanimously approved by the Missouri Gaming Commission at its July 13 meeting.

McNary served as the top elected official in St. Louis County from 1975 to 1989 and as the head of the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service between 1989 and 1993. Prior to his appointment as executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, McNary was with the law firm of Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, PC, in Clayton. He served as attorney of counsel in the area of immigration law.

"I value Missouri's model partnership between public, private, and nonprofit organizations in the collaborative effort of addressing problem gambling and promoting responsible gambling," McNary said about the Missouri Alliance. "As the executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, I plan to continue the tradition of being a strong and vocal advocate for continued research and impact awareness efforts in the area of problem gambling."



Gene McNary

Mullally Recognized For Contributions To Assist Problem Gamblers

Kevin Mullally, former executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission received the 2006 Outstanding Contributor Award from the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling (Alliance). Mullally was recognized for authoring the legislative bill to create the first statewide Voluntary Exclusion Program in the country, along with numerous other contributions that enhanced programs for problem gamblers and their family members.

"No one can match Kevin's contributions in helping problem gamblers in the state of Missouri," said Joanne Collins, former chairwoman of the Alliance. "His work helped to make Missouri a national leader in problem gambling programs and helped to set the stage for ongoing discussions and research to improve problem gambling programs and boost awareness throughout the country."

The Outstanding Contributor Award is presented annually to an individual, group, organization or company who has demonstrated superior achievement in addressing issues of problem and pathological gambling.

Mullally received the award during the 2006 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse held Aug. 16-18 in Kansas City.

Missouri's Voluntary Exclusion Program is now the

largest in the country with more than 10,000 individuals voluntarily placing their names on the list to be banned from Missouri's casinos for life. It has served as a model program for governments throughout the world.

In addition to writing the legislative bill to create the exclusion program, Mullally also authored key legislation to enhance resources for problem gamblers and their families in Missouri.

Mullally was a founder of the Alliance and served as the Alliance's first chairman. He also served a second term as the Alliance's chairman.

In addition to his work and commitment to problem gamblers, he also is noted for helping to draft the legislation that created the Missouri Gaming Commission, making it one of the most stringent gaming regulatory bodies in the country. In 2001, he became the third executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, after serving as the Commission's deputy director for legal and legislative affairs. He resigned from the Gaming Commission in March.



Kevin Mullally and Shelly Perez

Lottery Employee Receives Problem Gambling Service Award

Shelly Perez, Missouri Lottery publications manager and responsible gaming coordinator, was selected today to receive the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's Service Award. The award was presented during the 2006 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse in Kansas City. It is presented in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the Missouri Alliance to

Curb Problem Gambling over the course of the past year by an individual or representative of a member organization.

For more information about the awards given, please go to www.888BETSOFF.org.

1-888-BETSOFF

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Membership Is Key To A Strong Alliance

Keep informed about what's happening with problem gambling in Missouri and help develop Alliance programs by becoming a participating member of the Alliance.

Any individual or organization interested in promoting and furthering the Alliance's mission to educate Missouri residents on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling and promoting the availability of treatment can join the Missouri Alliance as a participating member.

Participating members are encouraged to:

- **Participate in Alliance meetings and events;**
- **Aid in the planning of awareness events; and**
- **Provide input to further expand the Alliance's programs.**

All memberships into the Alliance are free. For more information about becoming a participating member or to join, visit the Alliance's Web site at www.888BETSOFF.org or call (573) 526-4080.

Want To Receive The *Bulletin*?

In an attempt to streamline costs, the *Betsoff Bulletin* is available through the Alliance's Web site, www.888betsoff.org. We have an e-mail list of individuals who are interested in receiving notification when a new issue is available at the Web site, so please forward your e-mail address to: betsoff@molottery.com. If you would prefer to receive a free printed copy of the *Bulletin* through the regular mail service, please let us know by calling (573) 526-7467.

If you received notification by e-mail about this issue, you're already on our e-mail list, but remember to send us updates on any e-mail address changes. In addition, please feel free to forward the link for the newsletter to anyone else who may be interested in reading it.

Thank you for your interest in the *Bulletin*.

Alliance news and event schedules are available on the Web at:

www.888betsoff.org



The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.