

1 opinion. I think it should be clear to all now that  
2 we are all very strong in our beliefs and our  
3 opinions, and but we are going to try to restrain  
4 ourselves so that we can hear as many speakers as  
5 possible.

6           If we get involved in a dialogue or a  
7 debate, that only takes up time from the public.

8           With that, I'd like to welcome our first  
9 speaker, Ms. -- is it Roman or Romain?

10           MS. ROMAN: Roman.

11           CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Roman. Thank you, and  
12 welcome.

13           MS. ROMAN: Thank you.

14           I'm Kim Roman, and I represent No Casino  
15 of Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

16           Imagine being a child left outside a  
17 casino for hours on end while a parent gambles. I  
18 don't have to imagine it. I lived it. Ironically we  
19 moved to Las Vegas for my mother's health, but because  
20 the casinos played upon my father's addictive  
21 behaviors, supplying him with free drinks and constant  
22 encouragement from scantily clad women to keep

1 playing, I lost my home, and I lost my family.

2           My story is not an isolated one. I can't  
3 even count the number of times I've seen someone  
4 walking to a grocery store, cash their paycheck, play  
5 the slots, and leave empty handed.

6           Of course, the industry will say that they  
7 aren't responsible for someone's addiction. Maybe  
8 not, but they can and do manipulate it, and they've  
9 downgraded the story of my life to the status of  
10 anecdotal.

11           Please don't dismiss anecdotal evidence.  
12 There's a real and hopefully live human being behind  
13 each and every anecdote, and each of these anecdotes  
14 has families, friends, and employers whom they affect.  
15 Each true anecdote is a statistic, and each statistic  
16 is a fact that this Commission must hear about and  
17 must take into account.

18           Anecdotal evidence had a valid role in the  
19 product liability suit against the tobacco industry.  
20 There's no difference here. We're holding the tobacco  
21 industry accountable for the way their faulty product  
22 and deceptive marketing played on people's addictions.

1           It's ironic that Nevada joined the class  
2 action suit against the tobacco industry, yet refuses  
3 to take responsibility for their own high pressure  
4 marketing of a known addictive product.

5           My 14 year old son recently wrote a  
6 research paper on teen gambling addiction. The  
7 information was so shocking that he and his 12 year  
8 old brother are forming a group called Youth Against  
9 Gambling Expansion. Their motto is "Don't Gamble  
10 with our Future."

11           They are preparing brochures to educate  
12 teens, parents, and our state legislators. They want  
13 our lawmakers to realize that the next generation is  
14 the one that must clean the mess created by today's  
15 errant decisions.

16           It's a shame that state governments  
17 promote gambling at all since it depends so heavily on  
18 addiction to be profitable. They have truly crossed  
19 the line from being a regulator to being a partner  
20 with the industry.

21           I hope that your findings will allow them  
22 to make truly responsible decisions for those they

1 have sworn to uphold and defend.

2 I want to thank you for this opportunity  
3 to speak. I'm thrilled that this Commission has been  
4 formed, and I charge you with doing what is best for  
5 state governments and the American people, not a  
6 special interest group that has deep pockets and  
7 political influence.

8 I hope that when you tour the casinos  
9 you'll take a moment to step into the back alleys and  
10 see what gambling's true effects are on live  
11 anecdotes.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Dianne Berlin.

14 MS. BERLIN: Good afternoon. I am Dianne  
15 Berlin, founder and chairman of the Lancaster County,  
16 Pennsylvanians Against Gambling Expansion.

17 Thank you for the privilege of speaking.

18 Our group opposed an off-track betting  
19 facility proposed in East Lane Peter Township in the  
20 Pennsylvania Dutch Country of Lancaster County.  
21 Citizens of that community voted no on allowing small  
22 games of chance.