

1 possess many other luxuries that create a comfortable
2 life style.

3 While these things are enjoyable, they're
4 merely incidental. To me the most valuable way in
5 which the gaming industry has enhanced my life is in
6 the sense of pride and self-esteem it has given to me.
7 It has allowed me to work with people from all walks
8 of life and from all around the world. It has taught
9 me the value of diversity and how to assimilate the
10 best of these cultures into myself.

11 The gaming industry has given me
12 encouragement, education, empowerment, and self-
13 esteem. For this I am indebted to the gaming
14 industry.

15 Thank you, again, for the opportunity to
16 express to you what a positive impact the gaming
17 industry has made in my life.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you for being
19 here.

20 Joanna Franklin.

21 MS. FRANKLIN: Yes. Good afternoon.
22 Thank you for allowing me to testify.

1 My name is Joanna Franklin. I'm the
2 Executive Director of the National Council on Problem
3 Gambling. We are a neutral group taking a stand
4 neither for nor against gambling. We work to serve as
5 advocates for problem gamblers and their family
6 members. Our organization has been in existence since
7 1972. We have 34 different state affiliates, plus
8 representatives from Canada and Puerto Rico and
9 international associations.

10 Our main concerns in terms of the
11 Commission's work is very much the research end of
12 things. I'm often painfully aware of the inadequacies
13 of the scientific information that's available for us
14 and also very proud of our attempts to try and
15 investigate issues like teen gambling, prevalence
16 issues, crime, treatment needs of different
17 populations, specialty needs of minority populations,
18 and the list goes on and on.

19 We're often very frustrated with
20 government offices, federal government offices,
21 ignoring our request for avenues of information
22 dissemination in terms of prevention and education.

1 We've often gone to the drug and alcohol arm of the
2 federal government and been pointed to mental health.
3 We got to mental health and then are pointed back to
4 drug and alcohol, leaving many of our people, the
5 gamblers and their family members that suffer by way
6 of this concern, without the attention and the support
7 services that they need.

8 It's very difficult for me to understand
9 how 33, 35, 36 different state governments can have
10 lotteries in place and less than a handful of those
11 states use a portion, a tiny fraction of one percent
12 of that lottery revenue to fund treatment, education,
13 prevention, and help line services for the citizens in
14 their different states.

15 I'm from Maryland. We had the proud
16 tradition of being able to say we were the first state
17 in this country to offer funds for treatment for
18 gamblers and their family members. In the mid-'80s,
19 we lost those funds. We did more treating than we did
20 lobbying in order to keep those funds, and the state
21 government saw fit to put their money elsewhere, and
22 we have not been able to get it back.

1 The irony of it is, for many of the people
2 in my field, is that much of the funding that we
3 depend on to run a national help line, to run training
4 programs, to produce prevention materials, comes from
5 corporate agencies that are casino agencies, that are
6 some government agencies, and that are people that are
7 supportive of that gaming avenue of things.

8 We're very interested in a balance of
9 information. We're very interested in being able to
10 serve the agencies you charge with research to provide
11 them with the resources we have from a collection of
12 experts around the world, hoping that their beginning
13 efforts to try and understand this disorder can move
14 on to real factual evidence that will lead us to
15 productive places to serve that minority of the
16 population that has a difficulty with gambling as an
17 avenue and desperately needs a lot of help and
18 attention.

19 Thank you for your attention, and we look
20 forward to working closely with you.

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

22 And our final witness, Mr. Bruce Barron.

1 MR. BARRON: Good afternoon. My name is
2 Bruce Barron, and I live in suburban Pittsburgh,
3 Pennsylvania. I am a regional associate for the
4 Pennsylvania Family Institute and a frequent writer on
5 issues of policy and politics.

6 With me as visual aids are my daughter
7 Tricia and my son Trevor. My wife is pursuing my
8 younger son elsewhere in the room. Please pardon the
9 appearance. We are on vacation, but since we're just
10 completing our vacation and we're passing through
11 Washington, we figured the odds of passing through
12 Washington right when your hearing was taking place
13 was less than, well, less than an individual or a
14 regional economy striking it rich at the casino. So
15 here we are.

16 And since I'm on vacation, my props are a
17 little limited. Bill Thompson, of Nevada, Las Vegas,
18 as you know, uses a bathtub to illustrate the
19 economics of gambling, what's poured in and what
20 drains out. I couldn't bring a bathtub so these
21 buckets and a shovel will have to do.

22 And to give my presentation a Pittsburgh