

1 gamble. I don't tell others, but all I say is if it
2 wasn't for the efforts of Gamblers Anonymous, for
3 rehab. centers, and the Council on Compulsive Gambling
4 in this and other states, I would not be alive today,
5 and that's all I have.

6 Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

8 Isaac Stanley.

9 MR. STANLEY: Good evening.

10 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Good evening.

11 MR. STANLEY: My name is Isaac Stanley,
12 and first of all, I'd like to thank the members of the
13 Commission for being here this evening and for
14 allowing me to speak.

15 As a consultant and adjunct instructor at
16 Jersey City College in Jersey City, New Jersey, I've
17 had the opportunity to teach a course about compulsive
18 gambling to a number of prospective New Jersey
19 certified drug and addiction counselors as part of
20 their certification requirements here in the State of
21 New Jersey.

22 The purpose of this eight hour course is

1 to give students the diagnostic tools that will enable
2 them to identify the compulsive gambler and make the
3 appropriate treatment referrals.

4 I'm not here tonight as a representative
5 of any particular organization, and I'm not here to
6 speak in support of or in opposition to organized
7 gaming. Rather, I'm here as a concerned citizen who'd
8 like to share just a few observations with the members
9 of this Commission.

10 From some of the personal testimonies
11 we've heard here this evening, it seems that the
12 explosive growth and close proximity of gambling to
13 most Americans has really escalated the problems
14 associated with compulsive gambling, family break-ups,
15 criminal activity, and all the associated costs.

16 Compulsive gambling is, in fact, a hidden
17 addiction in the sense that no substance is ingested.
18 As the saying goes, you won't see card marks or
19 lottery ticket marks on anyone's arms, and you
20 certainly won't smell dice on anyone's breath.

21 Within the black communities that I've
22 lived and worked in in Chicago, East Orange, New

1 Jersey, and Philadelphia, gambling is primarily viewed
2 as a harmless recreational activity. It's seen as a
3 viable way of getting through life and somehow
4 eventually meeting one's goal in life by escaping a
5 level of poverty.

6 Within these same communities, I've also
7 seen a profound lack of awareness of the problem of
8 compulsive gambling and the available treatment
9 options.

10 What I'm proposing here is that the
11 Commission take an extremely focused look at how some
12 forms of legalized gambling impact poor communities.
13 Those who can least afford it are being targeted and
14 given the message that somehow it pays to dream rather
15 than save to invest in one's financial future.

16 I would urge you to develop ways of
17 increasing access to addiction treatment options.
18 Some of the benefits of this treatment would be
19 reduction in the overall cost to the gaming industry
20 itself, cost to states, the federal government by
21 reducing the number of unpaid debts, divorces,
22 bankruptcies, and the costs associated with criminal

1 prosecution.

2 It would also increase the overall sense
3 of worker productivity out there in the work force for
4 people who do have a compulsive problem, and it would
5 also save the lives of those persons who may at this
6 very moment be considering suicide as a result of
7 their problems.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

10 Lawrence Jameson.

11 MR. JAMESON: My name is the Reverend
12 Doctor Lawrence Jameson. I'm a born again Christian,
13 and I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I'm also a
14 resident of Cecil County.

15 What this Commission can do for Cecil
16 County, Maryland, is to tell Congress to pass laws to
17 keep casinos out of public schools. We'd like to ask
18 you to keep a leash on this predator.

19 Now, casinos in Louisiana and other states
20 are going into the public schools. They are donating
21 school books, gym equipment, and computers, and
22 they're even giving dice and playing cards for