

1 there's not enough money for them to win. They just
2 want to win and win and win, and eventually the small
3 bets get bigger and bigger and bigger, and before you
4 know it you lose, and the only big hit a compulsive
5 gambler can have is going to GA because, please
6 believe me, if it wasn't for GA I would be a dead man
7 now.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

10 Tony Milillo.

11 MR. MILILLO: Milillo.

12 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Milillo. Thank you.

13 MR. MILILLO: Thank you.

14 My name is Tony Milillo. I'm the
15 president of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of
16 Pennsylvania.

17 We have been doing our best to meet the
18 needs of problem gamblers in the State of Pennsylvania
19 by providing a help line, educating health care
20 workers, and general community about compulsive
21 gambling, and building a coalition of supporters since
22 1983.

1 The help line recently received a boost in
2 callers and support. The state lottery in
3 Pennsylvania donated money to our help line and began
4 listing the phone number in their lottery tickets. In
5 the first month of December, the phone calls alone
6 increased from 200 to 4,500, and the expenses
7 increased from \$70 to \$1,700.

8 For two years the council has hosted a
9 conference for health care professionals, government,
10 gaming industry employees, school counselors, and
11 compulsive gamblers. A copy was given to your
12 Committee.

13 The forum was for exchange of information
14 and ideas about diagnosis, treatment, and public
15 policy issues.

16 The council seeks support from the
17 gaming companies that are committed to responsible
18 gaming. In Pennsylvania, Seven Circles Resorts,
19 Epic Horizon, and the racing industry; those
20 who reached out from New Jersey, are Harrah's, Trump
21 Casinos, Bally's, and Caesar's. They support our
22 council by donating time and money to help with our

1 operating costs, conferences, and help line.

2 We realize that these companies do not
3 have an open wallet. They are limited, and we thank
4 them for our interest in our citizens.

5 A low estimate of the number of compulsive
6 gamblers in Pennsylvania is about 360,000, with many
7 of this population being teenagers. Our teenagers are
8 seeing messages: don't smoke. Don't drink. Say no
9 to drugs.

10 Concerning gambling, they hear: you must
11 play every day to win.

12 Some of our schools have carnivals, and
13 some of our high schools and colleges have casino
14 nights. That's for our students.

15 Another issue of our concern is treatment
16 centers who did take an interest in compulsive
17 gambling have closed. Professionals who wanted to get
18 involved in compulsive gambling see no advantage
19 because insurance companies do not cover compulsive
20 gambling even though the DSM-3 and DSM-4 in 1980
21 included compulsive gambling as a treatable disorder.

22 Our council realizes that no one has the

1 right to tell an adult how to spend your entertainment
2 dollars. It would be foolish and time consuming to
3 try and do so, but we are concerned that education on
4 compulsive gambling are lacking.

5 Many of our citizens don't even realize
6 that it is an addiction and there is help.

7 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. Milillo, thank you so
8 much, and we will read the rest of that as a part of
9 our deliberations.

10 Mary Jo Pierce, welcome.

11 MS. PIERCE: Hi. My name is Mary Jo
12 Pierce. Good evening, members of the --

13 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mary Jo, I'm going to ask
14 you to pull that mike really close and speak really
15 loudly so they can hear you in the back.

16 MS. PIERCE: Okay. My name is Mary Jo
17 Pierce. Good evening, members of the Commission, and
18 thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

19 In June 1983, after leaving an abusive
20 relationship and going through a nasty divorce, my
21 parents convinced me to move to Atlantic City, New
22 Jersey. Both of them, plus three other family members