

1 that we are interested in hearing the rest of your
2 story and ask that you may want to submit that in
3 writing to the Commission.

4 SHIRLEY T.: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN JAMES: I think we have time to
6 get in one final person. Mary Heineman.

7 MS. HEINEMAN: Good evening,
8 Commissioners.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Good evening.

10 MS. HEINEMAN: I, too, would like to
11 address the issue of treatment, especially treatment
12 of children.

13 What are the children of compulsive
14 gamblers learning about gambling? Are they learning
15 the value of big win? Are they learning that success
16 requires no more than a dollar and a dream?

17 Have some of us abandoned the values that
18 were passed on to us? Weren't we taught the value of
19 a good book, of great music, and the wonders of
20 nature? Weren't we taught the rewards of family
21 togetherness, hard work, and personal accomplishments?

22 I believe everyone in this room would like

1 to do something that would help decrease the number of
2 compulsive gamblers in this country. However,
3 breaking the chains of an addiction requires treatment
4 and education, and those things require money.

5 Very often it's the families of compulsive
6 gamblers who are the first ones to seek treatment, and
7 then they don't have the money to pay for it.

8 So how then can we intervene? The gaming
9 industry does not want this responsibility. The
10 legislatures do not want to raise taxes, but there's
11 one group of people who perhaps would not object if it
12 was decided that they would make available the funds
13 needed to treat compulsive gamblers and their
14 families. Who are these people?

15 The winners. Suppose anyone who wins
16 \$5,000 or more would have to forego a very minute
17 portion of that win, perhaps one quarter or one
18 percent. It's unlikely there would be many complaints
19 because, as an example, the win of \$5,000 would
20 require the recipient to forego \$6.25.

21 If these monies then were designated for
22 gambling treatment programs, there would be enough

1 funds to treat everyone who's been affected by this
2 addiction.

3 Ironically, should this go into effect,
4 some of the contributors would be investing in their
5 own future for they, too, may one day need help with
6 a gambling problem.

7 Only by establishing treatment programs
8 can we protect the children. How have our children
9 been impacted while living with a compulsive gambler?
10 For too many of them this disease has taken away what
11 all the money in the world cannot buy.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

14 I'd like to take this time to thank those
15 of you who have come before the Commission this
16 evening to tell your stories and to share with the
17 Commission.

18 I also want to thank probably one of our
19 unsung heros in the room, our signer right over here,
20 and I want to thank you. I know how difficult that
21 can be particularly for this long a period of time,
22 and I do want to thank you.