

# STATEMENT OF KEVIN BARRETT

## GAMBLING IMPACT COMMISSION QUESTIONS

1. Slot machines in racetracks would provide a increased source of revenue for racetracks.
  - A. They would in fact become mini-casinos. The customer would have both ways of gambling at his/her disposal. The constant availability of slots and current races would be conducive to the breeding of potential problem gamblers. It would be non-stop action between races , would could result in increased stress and poor gambling decisions.
  - B. The impact on the community would be increased gambling activity, thus increased potential for the criminal element and criminal activities. It may provide for a small increase in job opportunities. The number of problem gamblers would increase.
2. Simulcasting has a negative effect on the traditional racing industry. It has lowered on-track attendance, decreased the "sport of kings" atmosphere. This has decreased on-track handle, lessened concession and parking profits and caused the loss of on-track jobs. It has turned into a "theatre" for OTB and simulcasting parlors. It has also put stress on horsemen, who have to put a lesser quality( and trained ) horse on the track to fill race cards.
3. That's a tough question but I believe they can. Live racing is much different from watching racing at OTB and simulcasting. The experience of "being there" up close has to be a draw (except for the compulsive gambler, who just needs action) for the social gambler . However, it must be made affordable. Lower admission cost, lower parking and concession prices would help. Lower the breakage (percent the track takes out of each race pool) to give the bettor an increased return. Have betting at only races that are going on at the track live that day..no other availability to other racetracks. Would help increase on track wagering and cut down on betting availability to potential problem gamblers.
4. Economic impact of racetracks/OTB/pari-mutual wagering. Provides jobs, revenues to the community . Areas of live racing ie; Saratoga, Del Mar boost to the hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. For problem gamblers depletes financial resources, thus creates less money for shopping, buying homes, and recreational (movies, restaurants etc.)
5. Social Impact: Almost all negative. OTB Parlors create areas of loitering; criminal activity and second hand smoke environment. (Smoking laws are not enforced at racetracks, OTB etc) Simulcasting and OTB provide, in my mind too much gambling availability.

**A. Easy access to gamble thus:**

- **Financial hardships (loans, credit card debt, bankruptcies, evictions etc.)**
- **Family Dysfunction**
- **Criminal Activity(Embezzlement, Loansharking, Bad Checks, Theft etc.)**
- **Psychological and Medical Problems**
- **Job Loss**
- **Environment to feed their addiction**
- **ETC...ETC.....**

## **PARI-MUTUAL WAGERING (HORSE, DOG RACING; JAI ALAI)**

### **ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES**

- **LOANSHARKING (ASSAULTS ETC.)**
- **EMBEZZLEMENT**
- **ILLEGAL NUMBERS**
- **RACE FIXING SCANDALS**
- **MONEY LAUNDERING**
- **BET CANCELLATION**
- **SECRET AND FALSE WORKOUTS**
- **SHORT CHANGING CUSTOMERS**
- **ILLEGAL DRUG USE (Persons and Horses)**

The potential for the above increases for the compulsive/problem gambler.

### **COMPULSIVE GAMBLING PROBLEMS**

- **HOOKED ON ATMOSPHERE**
- **TOO MUCH AVAILABILITY**
- **THIS TYPE OF GAMBLING FEEDS EGO/INTELLIGENCE FACTOR**
- **TRACK, OTB, SATELLITE WAGERING "REGULARS"**
- **SOCIETY'S VIEWS**
- **FAMILY**
- **FINANCIAL**
- **PHYSICAL**
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL**
- **SUICIDE**

### **EMPLOYEE PROBLEMS**

- **WAGERING AVAILABLE ON BACKSTRETCH DURING RACING HOURS**  
(Hard working people; grooms; hot walkers; that can least afford to lose)
- **SUPERVISORS/ EMPLOYERS NOT TRAINED TO HELP COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS**
- **EDUCATION NEEDED**
- **"PAPER" OR NO EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE**
- **NEED TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

**UNCASHED TICKETS-** Why can't these millions of dollars of uncashed tickets each year be put for funding treatment, EAP Programs and Problem Gambling Councils?