

1 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Lynn Marcari?

2 MS. MARCARI: Members of the Commission, in 1978 I  
3 married into a wonderful close-knit family, a Norman Rockwell  
4 picture of small town America, Sunday dinners at the family home,  
5 ball games, parades and picnics. However, it was not long before  
6 I realized all was not as it seemed. Gambling was a way of life  
7 in this family. Every activity revolved around some form of  
8 gambling.

9 From the youngest to the oldest, there was horse  
10 racing, dog racing, card games, bingo, Las Vegas weekends and any  
11 and all sports betting. Even the gender of the next grandchild  
12 was subject to a bet. During these years, even though I knew in  
13 my heart that gambling to this extent was taking over my family,  
14 I did nothing. I convinced myself that they were having so much  
15 fun and it was nice to see such a close family enjoy each other's  
16 company.

17 Eventually, it was no longer fun and exciting. My  
18 dream turned into a nightmare. The lying, the cheating and the  
19 stealing began to take its toll and relationships were in  
20 constant turmoil. Innocent children were used as emotional pawns  
21 throughout these years. The family was in crisis and it was due  
22 to a seemingly innocent recreation called gambling. For years I  
23 watched as this disease infested the family I loved so much.

24 I, myself, became a master of the coverup. I made  
25 excuses for my gambler's behaviors because I did not know what  
26 else to do. I was ignorant and, therefore, unaware of the  
27 consequences. That lack of awareness cost me dearly. Many  
28 people believe that compulsive pathological gambling is not a

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1 disease; yet the Mosby Medical Encyclopedia defines disease as a  
2 specific marked by a specific set of signs and symptoms.

3           This is no different than the member of my family who  
4 is suffering from high blood pressure. Fortunately there is  
5 medication for the latter. There is no magic pill, ointment or  
6 surgery to eradicate this insidious infliction. However, I  
7 believe with funding we become aware and with awareness comes  
8 education and with education we can spare many families from the  
9 legacy of psychological, emotional and financial devastation due  
10 to family members' compulsive gambling. Thank you.

11           COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Thank you very much, Ms.  
12 Marcari. I want to be sure that we don't miss anyone who had  
13 originally signed up. Is Patrick Murphy here? Donald Thurber?  
14 Tom Dorn.

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