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18                   CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

19                   Jack Querze.

20                   MR. QUERZE:    Good afternoon, my name is

21    Jack Querze and I'm a pathological gambler in recovery.

22    I belong to a 12 step recovery program but because of

23    their traditions I'm bound not to reveal the name of

24   the the program, nor am I a spokesman for the program.

1                   I am also a volunteer worker for the Mass  
2 Council on Compulsive Gambling, and an out-patient at  
3 the Mt. Auburn Center for Problem Gambling. Gambling  
4 has been part of my life since I was eight years old  
5 and made my first bet through a family member on an  
6 illegal numbers game. Since then I occasionally  
7 gambled in safety until November 1988, when I had my  
8 first serious win on the Massachusetts State Lottery.

9                   Unfortunately, it was the first of many  
10 wins. I thought gambling was easy but by July 1989 I  
11 was destitute, morally, physically and financially and  
12 was admitted with clinical depression to a treatment  
13 facility for two weeks. I could not be officially  
14 treated for gambling addiction under my group insurance  
15 but the gambling was treated under cover of my clinical  
16 depression.

17                  Since 1989, I have been in and out of  
18 recovery. My longest period of sobriety lasted two and  
19 a half years and my cumulative clean time is almost six  
20 and a half years. Therapy has played a very important  
21 part in my recovery and I've been in treatment for a  
22 total of five years.

23                  My current recovery from gambling, which  
24 has been totally the Lottery, started October 6, 1996

1 and therapy started in May, 1996. Volunteering at the  
2 Council for Compulsive Gambling started in March, '96  
3 and continues today. Although not as intense as my  
4 volunteerism once was, it has undoubtably helped me to  
5 stay clean.

6 There are many reasons I wanted to address  
7 this panel today and its important to me that I mention  
8 a few of my fears and concerns about the legalization  
9 of gambling and its impact on me and perhaps many  
10 others like me.

11 One: the Lottery has created many new  
12 gamblers, many of which have become compulsive or  
13 problem gamblers.

14 Two: most compulsive gamblers go broke and  
15 many wind up with depression, morally corrupt or  
16 financially destitute. Although treatment is available  
17 at some 16 treatment centers which the state partially  
18 funds, most people do not know about the help being  
19 available. This aid should be publicized in a  
20 prominent fashion.

21 Three: bankruptcies, crime and suicides  
22 have increased over the years, credit cards are maxed  
23 out, houses are lost, embezzlements and robberies are  
24 increased and families are destroyed.

1                   Can some, if not most, of this be related  
2 to compulsive gambling?

3                   Most insurance programs do not allow for  
4 direct treatment of compulsive gambling unless the  
5 addict is treated under the guise of some sort of  
6 depression, a deceptive practice at best.

7                   The Lottery has unclaimed prizes amounting  
8 to several million dollars each year. By an act of the  
9 legislature, signed by the governor, three million to  
10 treat addictions, alcohol, drugs and gambling, has been  
11 appropriated to the Mass. Department of Public Health  
12 for allocation to a variety of treatment programs and  
13 public awareness programs.

14                  Currently, a pitiful one million dollars is  
15 allocated to education and treatment for compulsive  
16 gambling, one million out of almost one billion  
17 wagered.

18                  CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.