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CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

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Jack Querze.

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MR. QUERZE: Good afternoon, my name is

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

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I belong to a 12 step recovery program but because of

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

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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 undoubtedly 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.