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COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Now we'd like to
hear from Nancy Lantz. Welcome Ms. Lantz, from the
Colorado Council on Compulsive Gambling.

TESTIMONY OF NANCY LANTZ

1 MS. LANTZ: Hello, Mr. Chairperson and
2 Committee.

3 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Could you lower
4 that for Ms. Lantz a little bit? Now, we'll see if
5 that works. If it doesn't, we have one over here you
6 can use.

7 MS. LANTZ: Okay. The Colorado Council on
8 Compulsive Gambling is an affiliate of the National
9 Council. There are 34 affiliates. As you know, we
10 don't take a stand on any gambling issues. However,
11 we do take position on problem gambling.

12 We do have some concerns that there won't
13 be an original research study. We believe that there
14 are significant questions about problem and
15 pathological gambling that can only be answered by
16 original research. I think you all have a letter from
17 Dr. Henry Lesieur. Dr. Henry Lesieur feels that there
18 needs to be at least 34,000 people in the research and
19 that it should be a door-to-door survey, versus the
20 telephone research or survey that we have done in the
21 past.

22 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: We received a
23 correspondence from Dr. Lesieur a couple of months ago
24 at my request. I phoned him. Then I sent copies of
25 that to my two colleagues on the Committee. Is this

1 a more recent letter that you're referring to?

2 MS. LANTZ: Well, in July, the 22nd?

3 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Yes. That's fine.

4 MS. LANTZ: Is that the one?

5 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: And you both have
6 a copy of that.

7 MS. LANTZ: Okay. If you don't, I can
8 provide that for you.

9 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you. I
10 think we do.

11 MS. LANTZ: Specifically, a national
12 prevalence study is needed. While there have been
13 numerous surveys throughout the states, there hasn't
14 been a significant national study that reflects the
15 attitude changes toward gambling in the last 20 years.

16 The prevalence study would be very useful
17 to identify the rates of problem and pathological
18 gambling and, also, the high-risk populations, the
19 youth, elderly people, women, college-age gamblers,
20 ethnic minorities and middle-age men. There also
21 needs to -- it needs to identify some research to look
22 at issues like family violence and how pathological
23 and problem gambling is involved in that.

24 There also needs to be research into
25 credit abuse, over-spending and a lack of personal

1 responsibility and how these issues relate to problem
2 and pathological gamblers. There's a need for
3 research on the impact of problem gambling on the work
4 place.

5 There's also a need for an impact study to
6 see how it affects the family, as well as the children
7 that come from pathological and problem gamblers. Is
8 there a difference in the gender? Is there a
9 difference if the children are male or female? Is
10 there a difference if the addicted person is a father
11 or mother?

12 We would also hope that the results of the
13 research would be a further awakening that problem and
14 pathological gambling and the public health issue
15 should be addressed as any other public health issue,
16 and that there should be significant funding to
17 maximize the number of people to prevent the
18 progression of pathological gambling.

19 Any questions?

20 (Pause.)

21 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you, very
22 much.

23 MS. LANTZ: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: We appreciate it.

25 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I don't have a

1 question. I do have a comment, which is: I support
2 and, I believe, that many other if not all of the
3 Commissioners support the kind of national prevalence
4 study that you're talking about. There's a budgetary
5 problem here in doing that on a door-to-door basis.
6 I personally agree with you that it should be done
7 that way, and I would hope the Commission ends up
8 doing that. So thank you, very much, for your
9 comments.

10 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you.

11 Now, that's all the witnesses we have on
12 our list. I thank both of the witnesses for coming.
13 We are currently inquiring to see if we can move into
14 another room which has a little less noise coming from
15 the back of us.

16 (Pause.)

17 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: We're trying to
18 see if we can get into a quieter room. Let's take a
19 five-minute break while we're seeing if management can
20 help us out.

21 (A short recess ensued.)