gamble. I don't tell others, but all I say is if it wasn't for the efforts of Gamblers Anonymous, for rehab. centers, and the Council on Compulsive Gambling in this and other states, I would not be alive today, and that's all I have.

Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.
Isaac Stanley.
MR. STANLEY: Good evening.
CHAIRMAN JAMES: Good evening.

MR. STANLEY: My name is Isaac Stanley, and first of all, I'd like to thank the members of the Commission for being here this evening and for allowing me to speak.

As a consultant and adjunct instructor at Jersey City College in Jersey City, New Jersey, I've had the opportunity to teach a course about compulsive gambling to a number of prospective New Jersey certified drug and addiction counselors as part of their certification requirements here in the State of New Jersey.

The purpose of this eight hour course is
to give students the diagnostic tools that will enable
them to identify the compulsive gambler and make the
appropriate treatment referrals.

I'm not here tonight as a representative
of any particular organization, and I'm not here to
speak in support of or in opposition to organized
gaming. Rather, I'm here as a concerned citizen who'd
like to share just a few observations with the members
of this Commission.

From some of the personal testimonies
we've heard here this evening, it seems that the
explosive growth and close proximity of gambling to
most Americans has really escalated the problems
associated with compulsive gambling, family break-ups,
criminal activity, and all the associated costs.

Compulsive gambling is, in fact, a hidden
drug in the sense that no substance is ingested.
As the saying goes, you won't see card marks or
lottery ticket marks on anyone's arms, and you
certainly won't smell dice on anyone's breath.

Within the black communities that I've
lived and worked in in Chicago, East Orange, New
Jersey, and Philadelphia, gambling is primarily viewed as a harmless recreational activity. It's seen as a viable way of getting through life and somehow eventually meeting one's goal in life by escaping a level of poverty.

Within these same communities, I've also seen a profound lack of awareness of the problem of compulsive gambling and the available treatment options.

What I'm proposing here is that the Commission take an extremely focused look at how some forms of legalized gambling impact poor communities. Those who can least afford it are being targeted and given the message that somehow it pays to dream rather than save to invest in one's financial future.

I would urge you to develop ways of increasing access to addiction treatment options. Some of the benefits of this treatment would be reduction in the overall cost to the gaming industry itself, cost to states, the federal government by reducing the number of unpaid debts, divorces, bankruptcies, and the costs associated with criminal
It would also increase the overall sense of worker productivity out there in the work force for people who do have a compulsive problem, and it would also save the lives of those persons who may at this very moment be considering suicide as a result of their problems.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

Lawrence Jameson.

MR. JAMESON: My name is the Reverend Doctor Lawrence Jameson. I'm a born again Christian, and I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I'm also a resident of Cecil County.

What this Commission can do for Cecil County, Maryland, is to tell Congress to pass laws to keep casinos out of public schools. We'd like to ask you to keep a leash on this predator.

Now, casinos in Louisiana and other states are going into the public schools. They are donating school books, gym equipment, and computers, and they're even giving dice and playing cards for