that we are interested in hearing the rest of your
story and ask that you may want to submit that in
writing to the Commission.

SHIRLEY T.: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN JAMES: I think we have time to
get in one final person. Mary Heineman.

MS. HEINEMAN: Good evening,
Commissioners.
CHAIRMAN JAMES: Good evening.
MS. HEINEMAN: I, too, would like to
address the issue of treatment, especially treatment
of children.

What are the children of compulsive
gamblers learning about gambling? Are they learning
the value of big win? Are they learning that success
requires no more than a dollar and a dream?

Have some of us abandoned the values that
were passed on to us? Weren't we taught the value of
a good book, of great music, and the wonders of
nature? Weren't we taught the rewards of family
togetherness, hard work, and personal accomplishments?

I believe everyone in this room would like
to do something that would help decrease the number of compulsive gamblers in this country. However, breaking the chains of an addiction requires treatment and education, and those things require money.

Very often it's the families of compulsive gamblers who are the first ones to seek treatment, and then they don't have the money to pay for it.

So how then can we intervene? The gaming industry does not want this responsibility. The legislatures do not want to raise taxes, but there's one group of people who perhaps would not object if it was decided that they would make available the funds needed to treat compulsive gamblers and their families. Who are these people? The winners. Suppose anyone who wins $5,000 or more would have to forego a very minute portion of that win, perhaps one quarter or one percent. It's unlikely there would be many complaints because, as an example, the win of $5,000 would require the recipient to forego $6.25.

If these monies then were designated for gambling treatment programs, there would be enough
funds to treat everyone who's been affected by this addiction.

Ironically, should this go into effect, some of the contributors would be investing in their own future for they, too, may one day need help with a gambling problem.

Only by establishing treatment programs can we protect the children. How have our children been impacted while living with a compulsive gambler? For too many of them this disease has taken away what all the money in the world cannot buy.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

I'd like to take this time to thank those of you who have come before the Commission this evening to tell your stories and to share with the Commission.

I also want to thank probably one of our unsung heroes in the room, our signer right over here, and I want to thank you. I know how difficult that can be particularly for this long a period of time, and I do want to thank you.