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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: We received a correspondence from Dr. Lesieur a couple of months ago at my request. I phoned him. Then I sent copies of that to my two colleagues on the Committee. Is this
a more recent letter that you're referring to?

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

COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Yes. That's fine.

MS. LANTZ: Is that the one?

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

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

COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you. I think we do.

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

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

There also needs to be research into credit abuse, over-spending and a lack of personal
responsibility and how these issues relate to problem
and pathological gamblers. There's a need for
research on the impact of problem gambling on the work
place.

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

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

Any questions?

(Pause.)

COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you, very
much.

MS. LANTZ: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: We appreciate it.

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

COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Thank you.

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

(Pause.)

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

(A short recess ensued.)