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May 22,2003

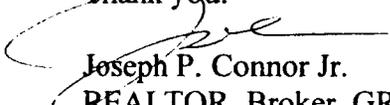
Good Morning:

My name is Joe Connor, and while I serve as Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse and Mental Health, I am here today representing myself. I came today to express my personal opposition to any bill that is designed to legalize gambling on sports in Delaware.

I have worked many years in youth sports, serving as a soccer referee as well as a baseball, and softball Umpire at the youth, high school and college levels. I was Head Soccer coach at Delaware Technical and Community College and a youth baseball coach. I am well acquainted with the positive aspects of sports on our young people.

I am troubled by the danger posed by legalized gambling as a "gateway" for young people to be exposed to potential gambling addiction and all the negative consequences associated with inappropriate gambling . I believe that even beyond the known cases of problem gambling in our state lie a large number of untreated cases of pathological gambling addiction. Legalizing sports gambling sends the wrong message to our youth about competitive sports and will only increase the number of persons with pathological gambling problems. My limited investigations seem to show that limited revenue will be realized by an ill conceived expansion into sports gambling. But, no matter what the revenue potential might be, it simply is not worth it.

Thank you.



Joseph P. Connor Jr.  
REALTOR, Broker, GRI