

May 8, 2019



**New York Senate Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering
Re: Examining Sports Betting in New York State**

Chairman Addabbo and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony and share my perspective on why mobile and online sports wagering will help protect consumers in New York and benefit the State in a number of ways that the current unregulated landscape does not allow.

As sports wagering expands in the United States beyond states like New Jersey and Nevada, state lawmakers who draft authorizing legislation and state regulators who draft implementing regulations will face challenges. To confront these challenges and create a robust, sustainable state-authorized and consumer protection focused regulated sports wagering market, government officials and other stakeholders should consider mobile and online sports wagering a fundamental pillar.

The challenge we face is the absorption (channeling) of the unregulated sports-wagering market, happening today in New York, into the regulated market. It must be actively promoted via fundamentally sound framework design and implementation encouraging an open and competitive market place, which includes the ability to place wagers through mobile and online channels.

Mobile and online sports wagering needs to be included in the framework to ensure regulated and licensed operators are able to compete with local bookies, neighboring states and off-shore operators. If correctly implemented, mobile and online wagering will facilitate more jobs, more state tax revenue and better consumer protections, which is evident in New Jersey.

A well-designed state-authorized sports wagering market will efficiently minimize burdens on regulatory resources and simultaneously maximize gross revenue by attracting participants to the market.

I look forward to further addressing the critical topic of mobile and online wagering in New York and support the discussions to tackle all impacts, both intended and unintended, with respect to the overall framework for legal, licensed and regulated sports wagering.

Sincerely,

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