



We understand the problem. We can help.

November 4, 2009

## **Governor Patrick's 9-C cuts**

***Governor Patrick cut in half the appropriation for compulsive gambling services, from \$1 million to \$500,000***

### **Your IMMEDIATE action is crucial.**

**Governor Patrick needs to know that this cut was disproportionately harsh and poorly timed. Problem gambling services are needed in the Commonwealth.**

#### **Disproportionately Harsh**

- A 50% cut--from \$1 million to \$500,000—will decimate problem gambling services in the Commonwealth. This is effective immediately.
- A 12% cut to services to prevent, intervene and treat problem gambling already occurred due to declining racetrack profits.
- This 62% cut threatens the existence of the **only** services for problem gamblers and their families in the Commonwealth

#### **Poorly Timed**

- The Governor made this 9C cut announcement while people at the Statehouse were giving heart breaking testimonies of lives ruined by gambling problems at a hearing about bringing casino gambling to Massachusetts.
- The Mass. State Lottery continues to be the most profitable lottery in the country. State regulations that direct services from the Lottery toward reducing, preventing, and treating gambling problems were already inadequate before this drastic cut. A state that sponsors or promotes gambling needs to take responsibility for addressing the downside as a cost of doing business.

#### **A Call To Action:**

What can you do now? Contact the Governor and the following policymakers TODAY and tell them:

*"We urge you to stop the dismantling of problem gambling services in Massachusetts. We ask that you restore funding for the remainder of this fiscal year and maintain funding for FY11."*

#### **Questions?**

Please contact Council Executive Director, [Kathleen M. Scanlan](#), with any questions at 617-426-4554.

**Governor Deval Patrick**

617-725-4005

e-mail via his website [www.mass.gov/governor](http://www.mass.gov/governor) (scroll down and look for the caption "write, fax or e-mail us")

**Secretary JudyAnn Bigby,**

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

617-573-1600

[Judyann.bigby@state.ma.us](mailto:Judyann.bigby@state.ma.us)

**Secretary Jay Gonzalez,**

Executive Secretary of Administration and Finance

617-727-2040

[Jay.gonzalez@state.ma.us](mailto:Jay.gonzalez@state.ma.us)

**Commissioner John Auerbach,**

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

617-624-6000

[John.auerbach@state.ma.us](mailto:John.auerbach@state.ma.us)

**Treasurer Timothy Cahill,**

Office of the State Treasury

617-367-6900

[tcahill@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:tcahill@tre.state.ma.us)



The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling  
[www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org) | [gambling@aol.com](mailto:gambling@aol.com)  
business: 617.426.4554 | helpline: 800.426.1234

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