



## Safeguards Necessary for Sports & Online Gambling Expansion

### Massachusetts Can Continue to Lead by Extending Consumer Protections to Include All Forms of Gambling

The Mass. Council strongly urges legislative leaders to include safeguards in any sports gambling legislation. Massachusetts is known as a leader in the field of responsible gambling and problem gambling services due to the safeguards implemented when casino gambling passed. The Mass. Council recommends that, similar to the 2011 Expanded Gaming Act, any proposed sports gambling legislation include items that increase protective factors for players and minimizes the potential harms. Any expansion of gambling should include the following safeguards:

- **A strong commitment to ongoing research & data collection:**
  - ✓ Baseline research prior to implementation of any new live gaming, including sports, proposition and online betting
  - ✓ Ongoing research to indicate awareness of games, resources, behaviors and problem gambling rates related to sports betting with a requirement that player data be anonymized and housed at MGC
  - ✓ Specific research evaluating the risks of sports gambling on the industry's employees
  - ✓ Evaluatory research on responsible and problem gambling programs and the use of funds set aside to prevent, intervene, and treat gambling disorder
- **Policy and regulations requiring operators to participate in awareness campaigns, and prominently integrate responsible gaming messaging into digital platforms and communications:**
  - ✓ Transparency in betting/posting the odds
  - ✓ Required signage and promotion of Helpline services (phone, chat, text)
  - ✓ Minimum play age of 21 and no betting on college sports
  - ✓ Advertising, marketing and game guidelines aligned with Responsible Gaming Framework including ad bans during games and on video game platforms
  - ✓ Sports-betting adoption of GameSense and the GameSense Info Center
  - ✓ Vendors held to RG standards
  - ✓ Operator-centered Responsible Gambling Committee and plan
  - ✓ No gambling for employees
  - ✓ Cash-based gambling with exclusions for credit and money moving schemes
  - ✓ Prohibit bonuses and rewards for excessive play
  - ✓ Increased enforcement on illegal gambling operators



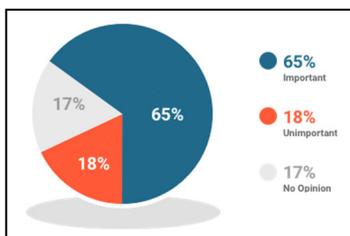
➤ **Programs that actively engage the community and utilize findings from MGC sponsored research to inform efforts by advocacy groups, public health organizations and community organizations:**

- ✓ 5% of Gross Gaming Revenue to the Mass. Gaming Commission (MGC), the designated regulatory agency, to provide for responsible and problem gambling programs
- ✓ Tiered employee training based on the level of interactions with customers - Initial training within six months and ongoing booster shots
- ✓ Statewide self-exclusion program to align or overlap with casino self-exclusion, including the reinstatement session
- ✓ Behavioral modification programs to respond to changes in play—departures from players' normative behavior (pop ups)
- ✓ Limit setting on time, money, losses, and wins & related pre-commitment & play management programs
- ✓ Provide online help (telehealth)
- ✓ In person and online interventions for loved ones and employers to implement (3rd party exclusion)
- ✓ Stepped care approach—different interventions for social gamblers vs. high risk gamblers vs. disordered gamblers

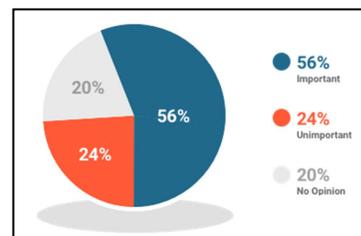
GameSense

### **MA Residents Support Responsible Gaming Measures**

In a 2018 nationwide survey of 3,000 consumers 65% of Massachusetts respondents felt that sport betting operators should implement responsible gambling measures, and 56% felt that it was important to set aside revenues to treat problem gambling. *(Ipsos Survey, Nov. 2018)*



The majority of MA respondents felt it was important for operators to implement responsible gambling measures.



The majority of MA respondents felt it was important to set aside revenue to treat problem gambling.

The Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health is a private non-profit health organization dedicated to reducing the, social, financial, and emotional costs of problem gambling and gaming.