

May 29, 2020

Public Testimony submission from Kitty Martz -

I am concerned that public process is being incrementally chiseled away by this commission, going to public comment every other meeting, to the new policy of reading letter “summaries” on video calls that the public is not invited to attend.

Reopening VLT’s: I observed that many VLT retailers in Phase I of reopening are attracting individuals who are clearly experiencing symptoms of a gambling disorder and they deserve special care. Please put some safeguards in place for vulnerable players, such as a 30 minute maximum play per venue, or a specially printed collateral piece that is handed to each player, something that addresses the unique potential for overspending in the midst of financial stress. I hope that your entire Responsible Gambling team will remain intact and able to fully focus on meeting the needs of vulnerable VLT players during this critical time.

Public Policy: The lottery expanded into online sports gambling without either legislative oversight or approval. **Your launch of the Scoreboard platform was a rushed process that resulted in an organizational, legal, public relations and financial catastrophe. Your credibility was compromised.** You need to be a more transparent when it comes to introducing addictive products. This includes fantasy sports. Please don’t short-cut the launch of such a thoroughly addictive platform through an emergency administrative rule process. When expansions are considered, there must be experts consulted, research and prevalence studies conducted, public and legislative discussion, and a democratic process adhered to.

Thank you.