



NCPG
National Council on Problem Gambling

Unseen and Underfunded: Federal Advocacy for Gambling Addiction Research in the Armed Forces

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Background

In 2019, NCPG was able to convince Senators to include language into the National Defense Authorization Act Committee Report that required screening of servicemembers for gambling addiction.

Risk Factors

- Servicemembers experience gambling disorder at a 2x higher rate than civilians
- Risk factors: being male, 18-29, tendency for high risk taking, as well as struggling with high stress, depression and PTSD

What NCPG is Doing

NCPG has been advocating to Senators to include this change by assisting our state chapters in reaching out to their Senators.

24 State Affiliates have publicly signed onto a supporting letter.

Advocacy Ask

For the United States Senate to include “gambling addiction” as an eligible research topic in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP), which is established each year in a defense appropriations bill.

Suicide

- Death by suicide is at a 15x higher rate than those without a gambling problem
- An estimated 40% of military personnel or veterans seeking treatment for gambling addiction have made a suicide attempt

Now What?

The Senate is working on the defense appropriations bill now. All documentation has been submitted and they are in the process of making decisions until approximately the end of July.

Research Leads to Effective Policy