

August 22, 2014

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte  
2309 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-4606



Dear Representative Goodlatte:

On behalf of The Family Foundation of Virginia and our thousands of supporters across the Commonwealth, I urge you to cosponsor the bipartisan Restoration of America's Wire Act of 2014 (H.R. 4301) sponsored by Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT). This bill would restore the long standing federal ban on internet gambling and protect the vulnerable and their families from the 24-7 easy access of online gambling. Congress needs to act now.

On December 23, 2011, a single attorney in Eric Holder's Department of Justice unilaterally reversed a long-held position that federal law prohibits Internet gambling. That decision changed a law which had been on the books for 50 years and did so without seeking Congressional input, consulting with law enforcement, or allowing for public comment. Since then three states have legalized some form of Internet gambling, and many others are actively considering following suit.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz took the first steps toward stopping the scourge of Internet gambling by restoring the longstanding interpretation of the Wire Act with the introduction of the Restoration of H.R. 4301.

There is little doubt that easy availability of online gambling is especially predatory toward gambling addicts and our children. Despite claims by the gambling industry, there is no way to prevent our children from being targeted. Protecting the young, the poor, and the elderly from being targeted by Internet casinos and gambling apps is reason enough to pass this legislation immediately. But there are other serious concerns that have been raised as well. The FBI has warned in letters to Congress that online casinos are vulnerable to a "wide array of criminal schemes," including identity theft and money laundering by "transnational organized crime." Moreover, the FBI warns that age and location verification technology "can be spoofed."

Rep. Chaffetz's legislation will restore the law undermined by the Justice Department and, by so doing, will prevent every smartphone, tablet, and laptop across the country from being turned into a portable, virtual casino available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Rep. Chaffetz's bill is awaiting action in the House Judiciary Committee. I write to ask you to cosponsor the Restoration of America's Wire Act and to urge the Committee to take action on it.

Sincerely,



Victoria E. Cobb  
President