

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.19.05 Resolution Regarding 24/7 Sports Gambling in Real-Time on Cell Phones and Video Games

Background

During the last 6 years, Atlantic City gambling interests have promoted New Jersey test cases and statewide votes to legalize 24/7 sports gambling in real-time on cell phones and video games. Opposed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the professional sports leagues, New Jersey lost twice in the U.S. District Court and twice in the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals between 2012 and 2014. In a perplexing decision overruling the recommendation of the U.S. Solicitor General's Office not to grant New Jersey's appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari and decided in favor of New Jersey-declaring unconstitutional the entire 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA). Dissenting Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg complained that the court decided "to destroy PASPA rather than salvage the statute" protecting the integrity of collegiate and professional sports, as well as protecting children from 24/7 real-time gambling on cell phones. On September 27, 2018, a congressional hearing was held to address companies already establishing 24/7 sports gambling on cell phones and video games.

WHEREAS, for three decades, University of Illinois academic research has led the nation in analyzing various cost-benefit impacts of gambling activities within the social, economic, and legal disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the 1995-1999 U.S. National Gambling Impact Study Commission, sponsored by former Illinois U.S. Senator Paul Simon, utilized significant University of Illinois academic research in noting that the psychological, sociological, and psychiatric communities refer to online gambling particularly when associated with the lure of sports gambling as the "crack cocaine" of creating new addicted gamblers, with high school students already showing double the addiction rates of the general public; and

WHEREAS, in 1999-2000, the University of Illinois along with Northern Illinois University were two of the first major universities to hold academic conferences on the problems associated with colleges and sports gambling; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 and subsequently, former University of Illinois President Stanley O. Ikenberry, while President of the American Council of Education (and in concert with the NCAA), supported enhanced PASPA protections stating "[t]he proposed legislation will go a long way to help maintain the integrity of athletic programs and help protect student-athletes"; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus (Senate) (e.g., December 7, 2009), as well as the Senate of the Illinois Student Government (e.g., December 2, 2009), have approved previous resolutions delineating the problems interfacing video gambling and college campuses; then

BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the welfare of the student population and the general public the Senate urges University of Illinois administration to note the significant academic history of the University of Illinois in these research areas and to sponsor new academic conferences on problem sports gambling in concert with other universities and the NCAA.

Respectfully submitted by senators:

Bryan D. Buckley
Roy H. Campbell
John W. Kindt
Steven Michael
Hayri Onal

Martin Perry
John E. Prussing
Terry Weech
H.F. Williamson