The SAFE Bet Act

118th Congress

Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20)

"Problem gambling in American has grown into a public health crisis—one that requires a public health approach and solution. My legislation offers that solution."

❖ **Paul Tonko**

Sports betting—and problem gambling—have exploded across America

- Following the 2018 Supreme Court ruling that struck down the federal ban on sports betting, 38 states and counting have legalized the practice, with 30 states also legalizing mobile betting
- A record number of Americans bet on Superbowl 58. At their peak, **online bet transactions totaled nearly 15,000 per second**, double last year's peak
- Calls to state and national problem gambling helplines continue rising at alarming rates
  - The National Problem Gambling Helpline Network fielded 270,000 calls in 2021—a 45% increase from the previous year
- An estimated 7 million people in the U.S. have a gambling problem and/or gambling addiction
- **1 in 5 individuals with a gambling addiction will attempt suicide, the highest of any mental health disorder**

This public health crisis needs a public health solution

The Supporting Affordability and Fairness with Every Bet Act (SAFE Bet Act) gets the job done. Specifically, the SAFE Bet Act would require states offering sports betting to <u>ensure operators comply with minimum federal standards</u> **in 3 categories: advertising, affordability, and artificial intelligence**

- **Advertising**
  - No sportsbook advertising during live sporting events, and no programing designed to induce gambling with "bonus", "no sweat," "bonus bets," or odds boosts.
- **Affordability**
  - Prohibits operators from accepting more than 5 deposits from a customer in a 24-hour period
  - Requires operators to conduct 'affordability checks' on customers before accepting large wagers, and prohibits operators from accepting deposits via credit card
- **Artificial Intelligence**
  - Prohibits the use of AI to track player's gambling habits and offer individualized promotions
  - Prohibits the use of AI to create gambling products, such as microbets
- **Additionally, the SAFE Bet Act would: authorize SAMHSA to collect data** on the incidence and outcomes of sports betting nationwide; **require a Surgeon General's report** on the public health challenges associated with sports betting; and **create a national clearinghouse** for gambling self-exclusion lists

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