# The SAFE Bet Act

## 118th Congress

**House Sponsor: Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20)**
**Senate Sponsor: Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)**

*"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
- In 2023, **Americans wagered a record $119.84 billion on sports**, up more than 27% from 2022
- A record number of Americans bet on Superbowl LVIII in 2024. At their peak, **online bet transactions totaled nearly 15,000 per second**, double last year's peak
- A July 2024 report found that odds of bankruptcy filing in states with legal online betting increased by as much as 25-30%
- An estimated 7 million people in the U.S. have a gambling problem and/or gambling disorder
- **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 wagers in excess of $1,000 in a 24-hour period or $10,000 in a 30-day period, 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
- **The SAFE Bet Act would also: Ban prop bets** on all college and amateur athletes; **authorize SAMHSA to collect data** on the impact of sports betting nationwide; **require a Surgeon General's report** on the public health challenges to sports betting; and **create a national self-exclusion list**

Connect with Congressman Paul Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram: @RepPaulTonko