



January 30, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Toi Hutchinson
State Senator
Illinois
President, NCSL

Jon Heining
General Counsel
Legislative Council
Texas
Staff Chair, NCSL

William Pound
Executive Director

Re: Federal Sports Betting Legislation

Dear Chairman Grassley, Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Wyden, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) we urge the Committees to respect the sovereignty of the states when considering federal action on sports betting and relevant interpretations of the Federal Wire Act of 1961. NCSL opposes any efforts to preempt states in this area, including requiring federal agency approval for state action.

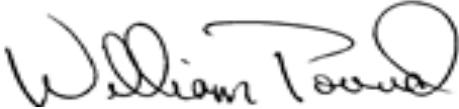
Sports betting has traditionally been regulated on the state level, and in the short time since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1992 *Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA)*, states have been actively addressing the complex matters of regulation, data security, and fee structures in a way that fits the needs of their individual constituencies. More than a half dozen states currently offer legal, regulated sports betting, while close to 20 are already considering legislation in 2019. States are taking the initiative to lead in this emerging landscape and have conducted rigorous hearings and assessments into properly regulating sports betting on the state level.

NCSL further opposes any new federal tax in this area, wager requirements, or mandating the source of state data. Federal overreach would create instability and uncertainty for the many states currently regulating or considering sports betting and diminishes the flexibility of state legislatures to be innovative and responsive.

Decisions about sports betting are diverse and unique to the needs of the state, and we strongly encourage the Committees to involve state legislators in future discussions on sports betting and the Wire Act.

NCSL is committed to working with you and your staff on this issue. Please contact NCSL staff Abbie Gruwell (202) 624-3569 abbie.gruwell@ncsl.org with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Pound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

William T. Pound
Executive Director, NCSL