

Protecting the Games We Love After *Murphy v. NCAA*: A Federal Framework for Consumer Protection and Sports Integrity

By Senate Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer

In light of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Murphy v. NCAA*, states are now free to legalize sports betting. As a result, many state governments are quickly implementing different laws to set up gambling in their jurisdictions. Whether you support or oppose legalized sports gambling, I think most Americans would agree the sports games we all love to watch must remain trustworthy and protected from potential corruption. We teach our children about playing sports with integrity and respect for the rules – we should expect nothing less from the athletes they love to watch.

To that end, I believe in the creation of a strong national integrity standard for sports gambling that will protect consumers and the sports games themselves from corruption.

1. **Protecting young people, and those suffering from gambling addiction.** We should not encourage minors to participate in sports gambling, and we must provide adequate resources to support those struggling with gambling addiction. So, I propose the following:
 - a. Prohibit anyone under the age of 21 from betting.
 - b. Prohibit advertising targeted at young people and otherwise require responsible advertising.
 - c. Require that information be provided by any entity taking bets about the dangers of addiction and available resources to help encourage responsible betting.

2. **Protecting the integrity of the game.** In order to protect the integrity of professional and collegiate sports we must provide a strong framework for coordination and enforcement. Therefore, I propose the following:
 - a. Require that any entity accepting bets share appropriate information in a timely fashion with the league or governing body of the sport in question as well as relevant state, federal, and tribal law enforcement or other appropriate oversight bodies. This data should be scrubbed so that personal and sensitive information has been removed but must be sufficiently detailed so as to provide the league or governing body with a basis by which to identify problematic trends.
 - b. Require that all parties involved, including sports leagues, entities accepting bets, and state and tribal law oversight agencies where appropriate coordinate enforcement actions and notify each other of suspicious or abnormal activity or any other conduct that corrupts a betting outcome of a sporting event.
 - c. All leagues and sports should have effective tools to protect their own game and that includes strong limitations and prohibitions on any athlete, coach, official, team, or league representative from taking a financial stake in any wager.

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3. **Protecting consumers and individuals placing bets.** As sports betting becomes legal it is important that those choosing to place bets are able to avail themselves of the same protections afforded to other consumers. To that end, I would:
 - a. Require that official league data be used to determine betting outcomes.
 - b. Require agreement between the league or appropriate governing body and those entities taking bets on what types of bets will be permitted.
 - c. Provide appropriate consumer protections and requirements that deter unfair or deceptive practices, and provide safeguards against financial crimes and predatory tactics. Furthermore, consumers should have a mechanism for appropriate redress should they be unfairly harmed by some betting activity or fraudulent scheme.
 - d. Provide a pathway for legal online and mobile betting so that sports betting can come out of the shadows and we can further remove the competitive advantage of illegitimate online sports books.

As state legislatures develop new legislation in the weeks and months ahead, I hope they will consider these principles in their efforts.

I also support the efforts in the Congress to debate and develop federal legislation that would adhere to these principles.