

COALITION FOR CONSUMER & ONLINE PROTECTION

For Immediate Release:
February 5, 2014

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Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection Fights Congressional Online Gaming Ban Group Calls for Common Sense Consumer Protections, Advocates States' Rights

Washington, DC – Today, the Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection (C4COP) officially launched its campaign against a congressional ban of online gaming. An online gaming ban simply would not work. Instead a ban would jeopardize consumer safety, allow for the existing overseas black market to thrive, stifle innovation and growth, and infringe on individuals' and states' rights. C4COP represents the voice of public-safety advocates, business leaders, technology leaders, state- and federal-elected officials, the gaming industry, and the millions of Americans who would be adversely affected by a ban.

An across the board congressional ban on online gaming would:

- Block common sense protections. Technologically advanced safeguards that protect children from participating in gaming sites cannot be mandated through an online gaming ban.
- Threaten states' rights. New Jersey, Delaware and Nevada currently permit regulated-online gaming, and many state lotteries offer online products. An online gaming ban would revoke these states rights and threaten individuals' rights to play popular online games like fantasy sports.
- Stifle innovation and growth. Trying to ban technological advances that consumers already embrace will drive consumers to an overseas black market that lacks even basic security protections. The millions of Americans who have a desire to participate in online gaming deserve protections to know which are safe and which to avoid.

Former California Congresswoman Mary Bono said, "Congress can neither legislate the Internet away, nor consumer demand for online products. We need to do all we can to make sure that the Internet is a safe place for businesses, consumers, families and children. I am proud to be a part of the Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection to make sure that people know the risks behind implementing such a ban."

Banning online gaming would revoke states' rights. New Jersey, Nevada and Delaware, in addition to the many other states with online lottery products, have already dedicated valuable resources into implementation of responsible, regulated programs that ensure safety and provide critical revenue to fund essential public services such as education and health care.

"An across-the-board federal ban on online gaming would have unintended negative effects for Americans by encouraging illegal online gambling and bolstering the current black market," added former Ohio Congressman Mike Oxley. "Millions of Americans are currently engaged in online gaming. A congressional ban would essentially ensure they are playing on an unsafe black market without the strong consumer protections that all Americans deserve."

To learn more about the Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection visit our website at www.c4cop.com.

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