

States Oppose Federal Overreach on Internet Gambling



The nation's governors are concerned with legislation introduced into Congress that would ban online Internet gaming and Internet lottery sales because it challenges the federal-state relationship.

The regulation of gaming is an issue that has historically been address by the states. Regardless of whether governors are in favor of offering gaming--through whatever form--within their own states, decisions at the federal level that affect state regulatory authority should not be made unilaterally without state input.



NCSL Approves Online Gambling Resolution Reinforcing State Sovereignty

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSL requests Congress consider the perspective of the states as it examines this issue and asks that it involve state legislators in any federal efforts that seek to reform the regulation of online gaming. NCSL strongly opposes any effort by the federal government to overturn the Justice Department's ruling or consideration of legislation overruling state authority by legalizing or regulating gambling at the federal level. NCSL also requests that federal lawmakers be respectful of state legislatures that prohibit online gaming or other forms of gaming within their state.



We firmly believe that all decisions about gaming should continue to be left to each individual state. It should be at their discretion what games, if any at all, are offered and through what manner they are delivered. Some of the undersigned lottery states have no intention of offering expanded gaming, but we are united in our belief that this is not and should not be a federal "one size fits all" decision. For Congress to pass a sweeping nationwide ban would be a devastating blow not only to lotteries but to everyone impacted by their contributions.

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