

MGM Statement on Senate Finance Committee's Passage of Online Poker Bill

MGM Resorts International released today the following statement from its General Counsel John McManus on the Senate Finance Committee's passage of a bill (S5302C) to allow safe, regulated online poker in New York State:

"This legislation recognizes that millions of New Yorkers play online poker on unregulated and unprotected off-shore poker websites that operate with no oversight, fraud controls, or age restrictions.

"We applaud the Senate Finance Committee's vote to create a safe, legal environment for online poker through legislation that will generate tens of millions of dollars in revenue for taxpayers, and create open and fair opportunities for all providers of online poker."

Background on Regulating Online Poker

- Polling shows that [71% of New Yorkers agree that safe, regulated online poker should be legal.](#)
- Every year, New Yorkers spend millions of dollars on off-shore poker sites that put players' personal information and safety at risk. Legal online poker will protect consumers against scams, combat problem gaming, and prevent minors from playing.
- Legal online poker in New York could create millions of dollars in tax revenue for New York – resources we could spend on schools and creating jobs, instead of sending overseas.
- The alternative isn't no online poker, it's an unregulated system of off-shore websites with no fraud controls, responsible gaming requirements or age restrictions. This legislation would create rigorous standards and protocols to protect the public.

What Experts Say

[New York State Fraternal Order of Police](#)

"New York should be at the forefront of the effort to prevent our citizens from wagering on unlicensed, unregulated websites located offshore and beyond the reach of law enforcement. These black market sites for Internet gaming offer no consumer protections. They are run offshore by unlicensed operators, drastically increasing the threat of identity theft, fraud or other criminal acts. There is also evidence that these gaming sites launder money for organized crime and help to finance terrorist networks. . . . New York should take the lead in creating carefully crafted, regulated systems for our citizens. Residents who choose to play will then have access to a well-regulated, well-monitored system and will not be drawn into putting their money or identities at risk on off-shore, unlicensed black market sites."

[Dr. Parry Aftab](#), Executive Director of WiredSafety, the largest and oldest online safety, education, and help group in the world.

"Online gambling poses many risks in an unregulated state. But the U.S., along with other leading countries that license and regulate online gambling, understand that burying our head in the sand protects no one. The only way to address online gambling risks to children, seniors, problem gamblers and others is by regulating it and enforcing best practices – not by pretending it doesn't exist."