

## **Fact Sheet: Addressing Underage Gambling**

Safeguards should be required to block minors from gambling online. Regulation, combined with proper licensing, enforcement and proven safety controls provides a framework that mandates proven age and identity verification technology to combat underage gambling.

### **Congressional Testimony on Benefits of Regulation**

- “[B]y controlling online gambling the federal government could minimize the harm that this activity can inflict on the young and their families and could also make the use of these sites safer for them.”  
– *Dr. Dan Romer, Annenberg Public Policy Center, a leading research on the prevalence and consequences of gambling behavior of high school and college ads youth in the US*
- “After more than a decade of analyzing the risks posed by unregulated Internet gambling, it may be ironic but I have reached the conclusion that the best way to protect families and consumers in connection with online gambling is regulating it, not prohibiting it.”  
– *Perry Aftab, WiredSafety, the largest Internet safety and help group in the world*
- “[A]s ever more efficient technologies and databases have been developed, online transactions have become in many instances faster and less risky than the visual driver’s license scans that suffice for alcohol or cigarette purchases in America’s neighborhood convenience stores, restaurants and bars.”  
– *Michael Colopy, Aristotle, Inc., a leading U.S. provider of identity and age-verification technology for clients in the private and public sector*

### **Safeguards**

Regulated Internet gambling operators would offer safeguards similar to the following to address underage gambling, currently implemented by many Internet gambling industry-leaders:

- When registering at a gambling website, the user would be required to provide a range of personal information and asked a series of detailed questions, including some which are derived from their credit history
- This information would then be run through existing third-party systems, such as databases from the Social Security Administration and Departments of Motor Vehicles, to confirm that the data being provided is accurate
- Internet gambling operators could also request physical copies of identification documents, such as a utility bill or driver’s license, for verification upon registering

### **Tips for Combating Underage Gambling in your Home**

- Use child protection software to block gambling sites
- Do not leave the computer unattended if you are logged on to an Internet gambling website
- Do not share your credit card or bank account details, including PIN, with your children
- Do not leave the "Save Password" option enabled on your computer or with any Internet gambling website
- Create separate profiles for your children on your computer so that when they log in they cannot access your information