

This is a summary of the original letter, prepared with the help of Perplexity to highlight its main points and findings.

The article summarizes testimony and discussions from a November 14, 2007 U.S. House Judiciary Committee hearing titled *“Establishing Consistent Enforcement Policies in the Context of Online Wagers.”* The hearing addressed inconsistencies and policy failures surrounding the nation’s ban on Internet gambling, enacted under the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA).

Key arguments centered on personal freedom, consumer protection, and the international trade implications of the U.S. prohibition. Lawmakers, legal experts, and industry representatives argued that the ban violates both American civil liberties and U.S. treaty obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Critics cited selective enforcement, noting that activities like horse racing and state lotteries remained legal online—creating unfair inconsistencies.

Witnesses included Representative Shelley Berkley (D-NV), professional poker player Annie Duke, NYU law professor Joseph Weiler, and Michael Colopy from Aristotle Inc., a verification technology company.

- Shelley Berkley and Annie Duke advocated for legal, regulated online gambling to protect American players and uphold personal freedoms.
- Professor Weiler testified that the prohibition violates international trade laws and risks damaging U.S. credibility in global commerce.
- Michael Colopy emphasized the potential of age and ID verification technologies to curb underage and compulsive gambling through regulation.

Media reactions highlighted that lawmakers like John Conyers (D-MI) and Barney Frank (D-MA) questioned why the Justice Department selectively enforced UIGEA and condemned its negative effects on U.S. trade relations. Meanwhile, gambling opponents pointed to potential addiction and social harm concerns.

In summary, the document presents a detailed examination of the conflict between prohibition and regulation, the economic and legal risks of maintaining the federal ban, and growing legislative support for legalized, regulated online gambling as a more effective consumer protection and trade policy solution.

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