



ARIZONA OFFICE OF
**PROBLEM
GAMBLING**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT:

OPG Staff Available For Commentary For Internet Gambling Coverage

President Signs Bill Limiting Online Wagering

PHOENIX, Arizona (October 17, 2006) — A long-running legislative battle backed by an Arizona senator and other key legislators has finally come to an end, as President Bush on Friday signed legislation imposing severe limits on Internet gambling.

An estimated \$6 billion per year is spent by Americans on Internet gambling. And just as with more traditional forms of gambling, the effects of Internet problem gambling are significant on individuals and their families. The American Psychological Association says that Internet gamblers may be even more likely to develop into problem gamblers than regular gamblers.

Experts from the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling are available as a resource to the media covering this important and complex issue. They can provide insight on the impact of Internet gambling, signs of problem gambling and other important topics.

If you are interested in interviewing someone from the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling, please call Rick Pyper, Director, at the number above.

The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling is working to educate Arizonans to recognize the signs of problem gambling. The office has a number of resources for those people who may have trouble gambling within their means.

The office encourages those who think they have a problem or know someone who may have a problem to call **1.800.NEXT STEP** to get help. Additional information is also available online at <http://www.problemgambling.az.gov>.

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Help for problem gambling.

1.800.NEXTSTEP
(1.800.639.8738)