

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

We write regarding the concerning use of illegal offshore gaming operations by America's youth, and to ask the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to take action to protect young people from these illegal gaming operations.

Illegal offshore gaming operations allow minors to engage in unregulated sports betting and gaming with no oversight, unlike legal domestic gaming operations. These illegal offshore gaming operations expose young people to numerous harms, including by permitting them to gamble without age verification, on credit, and offering no resources for gambling addictions. Young people, including minors, are increasingly gambling,¹ and illegal offshore gaming operations prey on them for profit.

Recently, 50 state attorneys general wrote to you² requesting that DOJ use its authority under the *Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act*³ to pursue injunctive relief and block access to illegal offshore gaming operations. We agree with their analysis of the authority provided to DOJ under that law, and write to further encourage DOJ to partner with all state and territory attorneys general to combat the reach of illegal gambling operations within the United States.

¹ *Sports Betting Activities Survey April 2023*, NAT'L COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASS'N 3 (May 24, 2023), <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/5/24/media-center-ncaa-releases-sports-wagering-survey-data.aspx> (finding that 58% of respondents aged 18 to 22 had engaged in at least one sports betting activity); Levi Pérez, *Too Young to Gamble: Long-term Risks from Underage Gambling*, J. GAMBLING STUD. (May 29, 2024) ("[T]hose who start gambling earlier than 18 years old have a 50% higher likelihood of problem gambling relative to those who start gambling after 18"); *Youth Development Survey*, N.Y. COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING (2022), <https://nyproblemgambling.org/resource-lib-item/youth-development-survey> (23% of students grades 7-12 reported gambling one or more times in the last year).

² Letter from 50 State and Territory Attorneys General to Attorney General Pam Bondi, NAT'L ASS'N OF ATT'YS GEN. (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.naag.org/policy-letter/50-state-and-territory-attorneys-general-urge-doj-action-on-illegal-offshore-gambling/>.

³ 31 U.S.C. § 5365.

Congress highlighted the need for DOJ to pursue cases against illegal offshore gaming operations as recently as last year.⁴ We now ask you to work to ensure that American children are adequately protected from the threats posed by illegal offshore gaming.

In addition to requesting additional focus and cooperation on this issue, we request the following information from your Department:

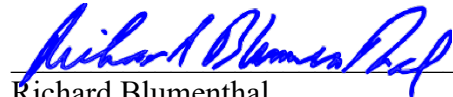
1. An assessment of how many, if any, illegal offshore gaming operations have been successfully targeted by DOJ.
2. An assessment of what ongoing efforts are being undertaken, or will be undertaken, by DOJ to restrict access to illegal offshore gaming operations in the United States.
3. Any unclassified information or data DOJ possesses regarding the explicit targeting of American youth by illegal offshore gaming operations.
4. A comprehensive assessment of what legal authorities or resources DOJ may lack that would assist in the targeting of illegal offshore gaming operations.

We thank you for your attention to these matters and for the Department's role in safeguarding Americans.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



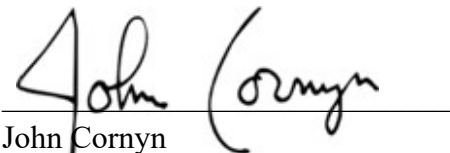
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



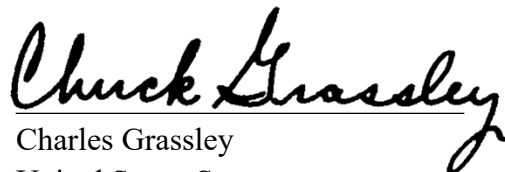
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator

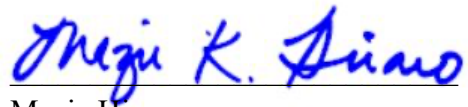


Charles Grassley
United States Senator

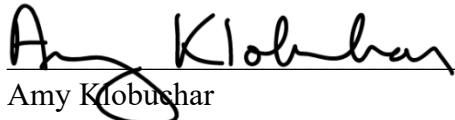
⁴ 170 CONG. REC. S1404 (daily ed. Mar. 5, 2024) (publishing of the joint explanatory statement accompanying H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024).



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator