

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 10, 2026

Mr. Christian Genetski
Chief Executive Officer
FanDuel
300 Park Avenue South, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10010

Dear Mr. Genetski,

We write in light of deeply disturbing reports that FanDuel repeatedly targeted problem gamblers with predatory perks to keep them trapped in their addiction, including a personal message from Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Bryce Harper. We write seeking answers about these exploitative tactics and demand that FanDuel end the so-called "VIP" services that drive problem gamblers into debt and relapse.

Over a period of several years, FanDuel offered one customer, Terry Thompson, numerous perks, including expensive bottles of champagne, tickets to Super Bowl LVII, and exclusive parties, to keep him wagering on its platform. FanDuel awarded Mr. Thompson these perks after he wagered large amounts, earning himself a VIP status and a VIP manager, who frequently encouraged him to wager beyond his financial means. In late 2024, FanDuel sent Mr. Thompson, who was reeling in deep financial debt due to his gambling addiction, a video in which Mr. Harper wished him an “extra special Thanksgiving” and acknowledged his son at the request of his VIP manager.¹ Mr. Thompson ultimately wagered \$18.5 million and lost over \$1.5 million through the platform, taking out several mortgages on his home and selling shares of his business to fund his addiction.

FanDuel claims to exclude customers demonstrating “potentially problematic behavior” from its products and promotions, but its VIP perks are dangerously designed to distract bettors, including those struggling with a gambling addiction, from their financial losses and entice further destructive gambling – especially when they are attempting to quit. The very nature of VIP programs is to develop “close” relationships with their clients over time, fostering false friendships and frequently asking about bettors’ personal lives to make them more willing to place bets. Gambling is a known addictive product and VIP/host relationships are designed to

¹ David Gambacorta, “FanDuel Sent a Personal Message from Phillies Star Bryce Harper to a Customer with a Gambling Addiction,” Inquirer.com (The Philadelphia Inquirer, July 9, 2026), <https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia/bryce-harper-fanduel-vip-video-gambling-addiction-20260709.html>.

keep people actively engaged and at greater risk. Moreover, the virtual nature of online sports betting makes it so that VIP managers are able to access bettors more frequently and at any time of the day, making bettors much more susceptible to manipulative marketing tactics.

FanDuel should not be using reckless and unscrupulous loyalty programs to drive bettors into debt and addiction. As such, we strongly demand FanDuel to end its VIP program for bettors, especially those suffering from a gambling addiction, on its platform. I also ask that you provide answers to the following questions no later than August 24, 2026.

1. What measures does FanDuel take to absolutely ensure that bettors are not suffering from financial hardships or a gambling addiction prior to enticing further gambling?
2. What steps has FanDuel taken to monitor interactions between managers and VIPs to ensure that managers are not offering predatory offers to problem gamblers?
3. How many VIP bettors have attempted to cut back their betting activity or close their accounts but were instead offered exclusive perks or offers? How many decided to keep betting after such offers?
4. Does FanDuel ever target VIP promotions and perks to bettors who are on a losing streak or appear to be cutting back on wagering?
5. How many times have VIP managers sent videos from players or other celebrities to a member in order to keep them engaged in gambling on the platform, and were those players made aware of the purpose of those videos?
6. Does FanDuel ever coach or train its VIP managers to develop personal relationships with their clients in order to encourage more gambling?
7. What specific factors does FanDuel consider when identifying “potentially problematic behaviors” and why has this allowed FanDuel to use its VIP program to encourage destructive gambling?
8. In light of the clear dangers posed by FanDuel’s VIP program to problem gamblers, will FanDuel suspend or terminate this program?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress