

Republican **John Campbell** of California on Wednesday said the indictment of Internet poker companies last week underscores the need for Congress to pass his bill to regulate online gambling.

“I think it’s going to add urgency to my bill, and I plan to be as vociferous as I can about this in the future,” Campbell told Gambling Compliance.

Campbell also issued a statement saying the action **“by the FBI and the Department of Justice provides clear and convincing evidence that we have a law in this country that a large amount of otherwise law-abiding citizens are routinely disobeying.”**

“This is not good for the nation and it is a problem that needs to be addressed,” Campbell said.

Campbell said he remains confident that his bill will be scheduled for a hearing this year by the House Financial Services Committee.

But sources close to the committee chairman, Republican Spencer Bachus of Alabama, have said any hearing on online gambling this year will focus primarily on strengthening laws like the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), rather than overturning them.

“That’s news to me,” Campbell said.

If he does not get a hearing on his bill, **Campbell** said he will pursue other options.

Campbell acknowledged the indictment of PokerStars and other online poker companies may make his colleagues in Congress skittish about voting for the legalization of Internet gambling.

“I’d be lying to you if I said that wasn’t a concern, but people should be looking at what the bill does,” he said.

Campbell said he does not plan to withdraw his bill.

“People are going to do this [play poker online], and they should be able to do it in a protected manner,” he said. “Everybody wants to clean this up.”

Campbell’s bill - the Internet Gambling Regulation, Consumer Protection and Enforcement Act - would establish a federal licensing and regulatory framework for Internet gambling in the United States and emphasize consumer protection.

Campbell’s bill mirrors legislation introduced in 2009 by Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank.

Frank, who is one of three co- sponsors of **Campbell’s** bill, said earlier this week that UIGEA “should never have been on the books in the first place.”

The House Financial Services Committee passed Frank’s bill by a vote of 41-22 last July 28 when Frank was still chairman. Frank’s bill never made it to the House floor for a vote.

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