

Dear Senator Frantz,

Thank you for championing the cause to STOP the continuing expansion of legalized gambling in Connecticut. It is a bad bet and frankly it undermines respect for Government when, in seeking to increase revenue any way possible, our elected officials not only legalize and condone - but actively promote behavior that preys on the poor and vulnerable and leads to debt, bankruptcies, broken families, and crime. The idea of "oral authority" may seem quaint - but we know it when we see it and for institutions as well as individuals - it matters. A government that sets the bar low gets - and deserves to get - the lack of respect that comes with it. 24 years ago when Governor Weicker made the pact with the tribes - gambling existed underground and supported a criminal element - just as the illegal drugs do today. It wasn't entirely new. But mainstreaming it and - worse - promoting it as actively as our government now does - sends a message that embarrasses me to have our children learn.

So, thank you again. I know its hard rolling back spending. They spenders get desperate to find ever more sources of revenue. But preying on people susceptible to gambling is not the way to do it. Even when lives are not shattered, there is something tragic about watching senior citizens (a substantial part of the gambling market) cashing in their social security checks in hopes of the big score that - for 99.99% - never comes.

We can do better.

thanks

Bill Hosley