

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 7054, which if passed would allow keno gambling in Connecticut.

It appears the revenue from slots is declining, and by nearly half since the financial heydays of the mid-2000's. And our good neighbor to the north is going to be opening its own casinos soon.

Is keno the only way to solve our state's many financial problems? What is next--raising the gasoline tax, the liquor tax, the cigarette tax, or implementing tolls?

Has anyone thought to do what any responsible family, or business, would do when faced with the same situation? Has anyone thought to cut spending?

Keno is a form of electronic bingo, and would be readily available in clubs, bars, and even family restaurants. It is highly addicting. Currently an extremely small percentage of gambling revenue is devoted to rehab.

Addicts equal revenue; this has been proven in state after state as I'm sure you know. It's one thing to make a special trip to southeastern CT, and quite another to go down your own street to a bar, club, or restaurant for keno. I know this must be a very tempting dollar resource, but are you taking into account the value of the lives that will be affected?

Do you really want to create more addicts, more bankruptcies, more job losses (keno, unlike a formal casino, does not create jobs), more broken families, etc.? Does Connecticut really want to be penny-wise and pound-foolish?

You can't get blood out of a turnip. The only way to "get more money" is to cut. I know; I have been through 2 layoffs and a divorce & currently live on about 25% of my former income. It can be done. I may eat beans 4 days a week, but I am not going hungry. I may not have cable TV, but my bills are always paid on time, and I have even managed to save so that I have NO DEBT except for my car loan. No credit debt or personal loan debt whatsoever. And no, I am not on any type of public assistance--none, although if I made \$25 a week less I would qualify. So I am pretty close to living in legally-defined poverty.

I have learned how to do without, I have learned what is the best thing in life (people!), and if I can do it, so can my wonderful state.

If I can make do on a 75% pay cut, so can Connecticut.

If I can be financially realistic and responsible, so can Connecticut.

I am glad this time around the public was contacted for input, and here's mine:

NO KENO IN CONNECTICUT, PLEASE!

Sincerely, Ellen Morelock

