

Sirs:

I hope you will consider the devastating effect that Keno and similar on-line gambling games have on our most vulnerable citizens. I occasionally travel to Massachusetts where Keno is legal and it is distressing to go into bars and restaurants – including many “family” establishments where children are present – and see people compulsively fritter away their money on these games of chance. Gambling is very often an addiction that creates all manner of family and societal problems. In fact, I have a niece in Michigan who is addicted to the gaming parlors allowed by Michigan law and just recently became aware that she has emptied her mother’s bank accounts of nearly \$100,000 to feed her gambling addiction. Unfortunately, her experience is far from unique as I’m sure you are well aware.

CT does NOT need more gambling venues and gaming opportunities. CT’s legislature – and the current Malloy administration in particular - has a serious spending problem that must be arrested and brought under control. The state’s fiscal and budgetary problems cannot and must not be ‘fixed’ by providing more games of chance that will only burden our citizens who can least afford to fall prey to these addictions.

I hope you will oppose HB-7054.

John Lilliquist