

Salemi, Kathy

From: Aj Faust <tssafaust@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:10 PM
To: commercemail
Subject: Testimony...house Bill 5577, act requiring the evaluation of costs for commercial gaming in CT

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 5577, an Act Requiring the Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming within the State of Connecticut. My name is Susan Faust and I reside at 757 Main St. South Windsor, Connecticut.

Senator Hartley and Representative Petone and members of the Commerce Committee,

Along with many others, I am opposed to expanded gambling in Connecticut. I support the state conducting or commissioning a study to evaluate the impact of establishing commercial gambling in Connecticut, provided that it is a comprehensive, independent study designed to research not only the creation of jobs and tax revenue, but also to consider the burdens on the state's consumer economy and the costs of such social problems as addiction, debt, bankruptcies, broken families, and crime.

We would particularly urge that the study examine the accumulating scholarly research with its growing amount of data associated with these subjects. A recent landmark report from the independent non-partisan Institute for American Values in New York concludes that the increasing number of local and regional casinos drain wealth from communities, weaken nearby businesses, hurt property values, and reduce the civic participation, family stability, and other forms of social strength that form the heart of a successful society.

As Rep. Per one has stated, the implications of opening the door to commercial gambling in Connecticut are enormous. We believe that a truly comprehensive and independent study of all the socio-economic issues involved would be extremely helpful to both the legislature and the public.

Thank you,

Susan Faust

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