



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER
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Written Testimony of Representative Juan Candelaria
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 9, 2017

Raised House Bill 7239 – An Act Providing for the Regulation of Gaming to Protect Public Safety and a Competitive Process to Issue a Gaming License

Raised Senate Bill 957 – An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State

Senator Larson, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Verrengia, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am here today to testify on HB7239 and SB 957, both of which propose the creation of another casino gaming facility in Connecticut. I have great concerns about both bills should they exclude employers like Sportech, who employ many of my constituents at their Sports Haven Bar & Grille in New Haven.

We all can agree that one of the biggest issues facing our state is the economy and jobs. We must always be looking to see how we can work to grow more good paying jobs. My concern with this legislation is that we make it harder to do just that when we open up another casino right down the road from an existing facility. Sportech, through their Sports Haven establishment, has been a great partner and corporate citizen in the city of New Haven and many depend on their livelihood through the jobs they provide.

I think that we need to carefully think about the impact of new gaming facilities rather than immediately granting the tribes permission to build a third casino in East Windsor. Businesses like Sportech, which employ hundreds of people across Connecticut and generate revenue for our state and dozens of municipalities, would be adversely impacted at the expense of another casino.

In closing, I encourage my colleagues on this committee to bring companies like Sportech into the discussion when considering solutions to compete with MGM. Thank you for your time.