

I write with my strong opposition to S.B No 11, S.B.No. 17, S.B.No.665 and H.B.No7055. All of these proposed bills will expand gambling in the state of Connecticut. First - it is a burden on an already crumbling and frail infrastructure - roads, trains, parking density, etc. In addition, it actually works as a tax on our most vulnerable citizens - the ones who are looking to our government for help, not dependency. Gambling is addictive and costly. It does NOT benefit the gamblers or the community. It lines the pockets of the operators and, yes, a government that is looking for "easy" ways to solve the budget problems (of their own making due to a lack of fiscal discipline). In other communities where "job opportunities from casinos" were touted, the casinos insidiously lured their own employees into the gambling addiction - and those who could least afford to lose money were the ones who ended up worse off than they were before. Connecticut has serious financial problems, but instead of offering the unsavory element of gambling to the mix, it should take a serious look at how to tighten its spending excesses and cure our give-aways instead of looking for "easy money."

Thank you.

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