

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Martha Diamant. I have lived in Weston for more than 50 years. I have never before written to anyone in the legislature favoring or opposing any piece of legislation!!! Today, I have grave concerns about current measures before you.

I am a member of the Coalition Against Casino Expansion in Connecticut (CACE). CACE is a group of 14 faith communities and organizations representing over a million people in Connecticut. I am writing today in opposition to H.B. 7055: An Act Creating the Connecticut Gambling Commission and Creating a Competitive Bidding Process for a Resort Casino. I am also opposed to S.B. 11 An Act Concerning the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor. I am also opposed to S.B.17 An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Internet Gambling and Internet Keno and lastly, I am opposed to S.B. 665 An Act Concerning Sports Wagering.

I do believe that the once great State of Connecticut is lowering its standards to prey on unfortunate residents, who buy into a foolish "Get Rich Quick" scheme. Gambling in any form can become a total addiction to those who do not have other means to get rich. Gambling, does not give our residents a financial future. Gambling, on balance, takes money from gamblers and rarely helps them fulfill the lure of easy riches. In the end, it can cost other taxpayers money to solve problems of addiction and loss of family funds.

Our current legislators need to use the "common sense" approach for each and every resident in the once beautiful State... not just their greedy need for more money to support an out of balance and overblown budget!

Stop the proposals that pray upon the dementia of our unfortunate residents.

Thank you for your time and for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Martha Diamant
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