



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Opposition of H. B. 7055: An Act Creating the Connecticut Gambling Commission and Creating a Competitive Bidding Process for a Resort Casino. Submitted by, Deborah Kirk
February 25, 2019**

I am Deborah Kirk of 96 Kenyonville Road in Woodstock Valley, CT. I am Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. 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 oppose any, and all expansion of gambling in the state for the following reasons:

- *Gambling is highly addictive and casinos depend highly on problem gamblers for their revenue and living close to a casino increases your chance of becoming a problem gambler.*
- *Gambling hits low-income earners, retirees, the mentally ill, and the unemployed the hardest, populations that are already suffering from economic inequality.*
- *The social costs of gambling are enormous. These include crime costs, business and employment costs, bankruptcy costs, suicide costs, illnesses related to pathological gambling, social service costs, and family costs.*

The members of the Coalition Against Casino Expansion in Connecticut include:

Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ – Episcopal Church in Connecticut – Connecticut League of Women Voters – Connecticut Catholic Conference -- Family Institute of Connecticut – New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America – Connecticut Association for Human Services – Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport – Advocacy Unlimited, Inc. – Farmington Valley American Muslim Center and Bridgeport Islamic Community Center - Resident Bishop New England Conference of the United Methodist Church – American Baptist Churches of Connecticut – Presbytery of Southern New England

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in opposition to H.B. 7055, and SB 11, SB 17, and SB 665.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kirk 96 Kenyonville Road Woodstock Valley, CT 860-974-2463 debbyk@ctucc.org