

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Rochelle Stackhouse, I am from Hamden, CT and I am a member of Center Church, Hartford. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ (CTUCC) is leading the Coalition Against Casino Expansion in CT (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 and 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 am opposed on both practical and moral grounds to further expansion of gambling in Connecticut. The casinos we currently have are losing money; why do we think adding competition is going to change that for the better instead of for the worse? It seems that we are only doing this so Massachusetts doesn't get "one-up" on us, which is ridiculous. Gambling anywhere in any form also results in addictions, in the poor getting poorer, especially the elderly poor. Please reconsider these actions.

Thank you for your time and for reading my testimony.

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse