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## Gambling Alert - July 11, 2017



Much has been written about ending the budget impasse and raising taxes. While Legislators approved borrowing an additional \$6 Billion, that will not be enough to pay all the debt, pensions, and other obligations.

Rather than adjourn on July 6th, Speaker Madigan and Senate President Cullerton "recessed" and could call the Legislature back at any time. We must remain vigil and continue to share concerns with Legislators and the Governor, asking them to oppose the expansion of gambling.

### **Gambling related community harm exceeds that of drug use**

New research conducted for the New Zealand Ministry of Health by Auckland University of Technology and Central Queensland University found **harm associated with gambling is almost double that of drug use disorders, bipolar affective disorder, eating disorders and schizophrenia combined.**

. . . In examining the harms associated with gambling, the researchers found six main areas, including **decreased health; emotional or psychological distress; financial harm; reduced performance at work or education; relationship disruption, conflict or breakdown; and criminal activity.** In addition, these harms were categorised into minor (e.g. increased credit card debt), crisis/extreme harms (e.g. relationship breakdown) and legacy harms that continue after the gambling has stopped (e.g. lower quality of life due to loss of major assets). [Read more](#)

## Two-thirds of jobs in Las Vegas could be automated by 2035 - [Read](#)

### Woman in southern Illinois wants video gambling establishments to start a self-exclusion program for gamblers.

Mary, who recently started a Gamblers Anonymous group at a United Methodist Church in Murphysboro, would like to introduce the notion of self-exclusion to local businesses that have video gambling terminals and to people who are struggling with an addiction to gambling. [Read more](#)

### More Billion-Dollar casino giveaways

In 1990, the original 10 Illinois casino licenses worth a Wall Street valuation of approximately \$5 billion (\$11 billion in current dollars) were given away for only \$25,000 each to political insiders. Currently, pending Illinois legislation proposes more billion-dollar giveaways by charging only \$100,000 each for 10-12 new casino licenses. [Read more](#) **NOTE: SB 7 lowers taxes for slot machines and table games for casinos and racetracks and does not require bidding on new casino licenses.**

#### *For Immediate Action*

- Share this Alert with your State Representative and Senator and ask them to oppose ALL gambling expansion--casinos, Internet, video gambling, fantasy sports gambling, Lottery.
- Contact the governor to tell him the COSTS of more gambling far outweigh the possible revenue. There are more than enough opportunities for people to gamble in Illinois. Making gambling more accessible will increase Addiction, Bankruptcy, Crime, Family problems, and Suicide.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

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