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Gambling Alert - October 2, 2017

Video gambling having negative impact



Guest Commentary:

While some call this "entertainment," **problem and pathological gamblers are gambling out of desperation, trying to win back the money they lost in the machines.**

Increasing the number of video gambling establishments and making gambling more convenient will also increase costs to the community in terms of addiction, bankruptcy, crime and embezzlement.

Armed robberies at video gambling parlors in Champaign, Decatur and Springfield were reported in the media this year. Last week, three video gambling establishments were burglarized in Springfield, with a substantial amount of damage and money taken.

... In Springfield, home of the most video gambling machines in the state, general merchandise sales tax receipts are dropping.

Millions of dollars are lost in video gambling machines rather than used to purchase appliances, cars, food and merchandise that generate money for other local businesses. Other **Illinois communities are enacting moratoriums or banning video gambling, and all local governments need to emulate them.** [Read more](#)

"Gangsters to Governors: The New Bosses of Gambling in America"

This new book, published by Rutgers University Press, is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

In an interview, the author said, "I think states are now too reliant on gambling revenue to scale back in any significant way, so **voters need to be skeptical of politicians' promises and block expansion efforts that seem to go too far.**

Taxpayers should be wary of gambling revenue projections because history shows that they are almost always wildly optimistic. Then **states double down and raise betting limits**, increase the number of slot machines, or raise the price of lottery tickets to try to make up the difference". [Read more](#)

NOTE: Illinois Legislators want to double the betting limit for video gambling, more than double the jackpot amount, and add progressive jackpots as part of a revenue package for a capital construction project.

For Immediate Action

- Share this Alert with your State [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and ask them to OPPOSE and vote against ALL bills that expand gambling in the Veto Session.
- Share this Alert with your local officials and ask them to keep the ban on video gambling or enact a moratorium on video gambling.
- Share with your faith community
- Forward to 10 others.

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