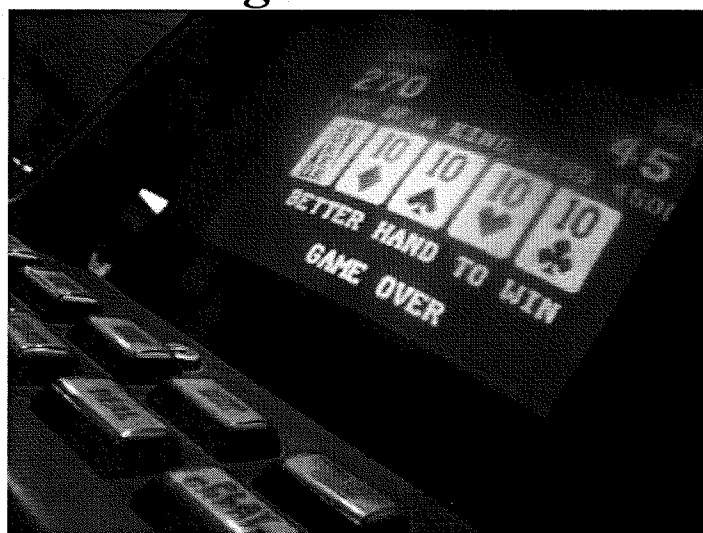


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Video Gambling Alert - October 9, 2017



Veto Session is Oct. 24-26 and Nov. 7-9

Our prayers go out to all in Las Vegas who are dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy, especially to those who are injured or have lost loved ones.

Nine Illinois Legislators were in or traveling to Las Vegas at that time attending the Global Gaming Expo. Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios was there on behalf of the Illinois Gaming Machine Operators Association. The association, which is the trade group for video gambling interests, scheduled a series of receptions in Las Vegas in conjunction with the convention. One purpose was to schmooze with a group of Illinois legislators in attendance, Mark Brown reported. [Read more](#)

Several articles have been written about the shooter's lifestyle and gambling on video poker machines:

Vegas shooter's gambling brings new attention to video poker

It's unknown how much he wagered, but he apparently had been wagering more than \$10,000 a day in some cases.

... "(The casinos) know whether he lost money because he never would have gambled for a second without putting the [reward] card in," his brother said. [Read more](#)

Vegas shooter's rampage came from a place central to his lifestyle: A casino

Casinos closely track the habits of all but the most casual gamblers, monitoring the time they spend playing and the amount they wager. And they **invest heavily in**

freebies and other inducements to keep them playing. Schwartz said that comps, on average, account for almost one-third of the expenses at Las Vegas' large casinos. . . . Though offering a veneer of glitz and glamour, the comps allow casinos to promote and reward loyalty, analysts said, largely because **casino officials know that the longer and more often a person gambles, the more likely it is that the house will win.**

. . . Schwartz said casinos have sophisticated systems for tracking players' habits. Even fairly **casual gamblers are encouraged to sign up for a "player card," essentially a loyalty club card that allows casinos to collect data about the time a gambler spends at a blackjack table or slot machine, the amount of their typical bet, and their overall winnings and losses.** [Read more](#)

In the solitary world of video poker, Paddock knew how to win. Until he didn't "Video poker is the worst of the worst. The reason it works so well is **it compels you to keep playing through random reinforcement,**" he said. "The next hand might be the big one. You might get a flush or a full house, and that keeps you hanging in there. **It gives you just enough positive feedback to keep you hooked** into it." But drinking seemed to be a common denominator among those who saw him in action. [Read more](#)

Video gambling companies are pressuring the Illinois Gaming Board to implement a rewards program similar to those at casinos. Legislators want to expand video gambling to double the amount of bets, increase jackpots, and allow progressive jackpots. This could be included as part of the revenue for capital construction projects.

For Immediate Action

1. **Write a letter to the Gaming Board** asking them to deny the request for a video gambling rewards program, which will negatively impact problem and addicted gamblers, the elderly, and vulnerable. Send your letter to Donald Tracy, Chairman, Illinois Gaming Board, 160 North La Salle Street, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60601.
2. **Contact** your State [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and ask them to oppose bills to double the amount of bets, increase jackpots, and expand video gambling. Ask them to oppose ALL gambling expansion bills.
3. **Share** this Alert with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 other.

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