

EXPANDED GAMING WILL BRING GOOD FORTUNE TO MASSACHUSETTS.

- Upwards of **20,000** new permanent jobs statewide
- **Good pay**, full benefits and retirement plans
- **30,000** construction jobs
- Tens of thousands of indirect **jobs**
- **\$500 million** in annual tax revenues
- Increased tourism and economic **activity**
- New growth, new opportunity, **new optimism**

Wrong!

Fact:
Median casino
employee salary
low-mid \$20,000.

Wrong!

**Jobs lost with small
business death**

Really?

**Self contained
facilities**

New Costs

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO is the largest labor umbrella organization in the Commonwealth, representing hundreds of thousands of working families from over 700 local unions, and serves as The Voice of Working Families in Massachusetts. Visit www.massafclcio.org to learn more.

NEW JOBS, NEW REVENUES, NEW OPPORTUNITY = ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WE CAN ALL SUPPORT.

Across the state, the Governor's proposal to expand gaming will create upwards of 20,000 good, permanent jobs, with family-sustaining wages and benefits.

Expanded gaming will also create 30,000 construction jobs with enough work for day and night shifts, seven days a week, for many years. Estimates show that tens of thousands of indirect jobs will be created as the need for more products and services increases with population growth and flourishing tourism.

In addition to more jobs, resort-style casinos will capture much of the \$1.1 billion currently lost to our neighboring states. Our state will also enjoy increased tourism and hundreds of millions of dollars in much-needed new tax revenues - money that will build schools, roads, and bridges, and preserve parks and open spaces in our communities.

I urge you to join me, the working families of the Commonwealth, and the majority of Massachusetts voters, in supporting the kind of high quality economic development that will result from expanded gaming in our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Haynes, President
Massachusetts AFL-CIO

**An
independent
comprehensive
cost-benefit
analysis is
needed**

The Republican, Thursday, February 21, 2008

The Republican.

Established in Springfield, Mass., September 8, 1824

Casino benefits just fool's gold

Of so-called "resort" casinos delivering busloads of tourists to attractions outside the perimeter of the gambling complexes are slim to none.

While supporters of Gov. Deval L. Patrick's proposal to establish three casinos - including one in Western Massachusetts - say casinos would provide an overall boost to tourism, that hasn't in Connecticut.

Just ask Ledyard, Conn., Mayor Frederic B. Allyn Jr., who governs in the shadow of Foxwoods casino. Beyond the two Dunkin' Donuts shops along Route 2, Allyn said, the 45,000 people who visit Foxwoods daily are "not stopping for anything."

During an interview for The Republican's four-part series "Rolling the Dice," which concluded yesterday, Allyn complained that the presence of a casino hasn't helped Ledyard a bit. He said his town of 15,000 residents still struggles to pave roads and repair infrastructure. Taxes are high - averaging \$10,000 - and have driven many retirees away, he said.

If a "resort" casino were to be built in Palmer, as one would-be developer proposes, it's unlikely that casino-goers would stray from the confines of the casino. To suggest that tourists might expand their visit to the region to take in such attractions as Springfield's Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame or the museums at the Quadrangle is ridiculous.

There's no more unlikely conversation than the following: "Hey, let's hit the casino, then drive to the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield, and then go to the Student Prince for dinner."

We believe in calling a spade a spade. Hopes that casinos will pump up local economies are false hopes. There are many reasons why we're opposed to legalizing casino gambling in the Bay State. Casinos impose social costs that are higher than the financial benefits. The greatest gain in casino gambling goes to those who own the casinos, and the greatest loss with casino gambling comes for the people who wager there but who can least afford it - the elderly and the poor. Chasing casinos is like chasing fool's gold.



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The League of Women Voters Urges You to Keep Casinos Out of Massachusetts

Talking Points:

- Tribal casinos are not inevitable. There are significant hurdles tribes must overcome to place land into trust where a tribal casino could be built. State law then determines whether Class III gambling (slots and table games) will be allowed.
- Construction jobs have been overstated. Figures for casino employees have not been verified. Experience with existing casinos show that loss of local small businesses unable to withstand competition will create an increase in unemployment that will certainly offset much of the proposed gain. There is also the potential for an influx of out-of-state workers to fulfill specialized needs, whose costs are not addressed.
- The projected revenue from these sites is thought to be overstated. They will be in competition with at least 843 casinos located across the country in more familiar resort destinations, such as California, Nevada, and Florida, as well as many resort casinos in Canada, the Caribbean, and Europe. Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island are planning expansions to compete with the proposed casinos.
- Money put into slot machines, estimated at \$50,000 per machine, will come from current discretionary spending at restaurants, movies, and local vacation sites, as well other purchases such as cars, clothing, and other necessities. The governor's plan calls for 15,000 machines.
- The experience in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, as well as other states, has shown that casino revenues do not resolve budget problems. They all have higher tax rates than Massachusetts and/or have had significant financial problems since the introduction of casino gambling.
- The social and economic impact created by casinos in the selected areas are only addressed in the contiguous communities, although transportation, loss of businesses and jobs, decreased property values, gambling addictions, crime and other social ills will affect other communities in the state.
- Three casinos located across the state will make Massachusetts the fourth largest casino state in the nation, and will put every community in the state within the 50-mile negative-impact radius.
- Social problems are often minimized. While 5% of all gamblers (an estimated +/- 250,000 residents) become problem gamblers, this figure does not include family members, employers, and friends also affected.



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Bill would ban military slot machines

- Story Highlights
- Bill motivated by gambling-addicted soldier's suicide
- Military slots bring in \$130 million a year to help pay for recreation
- Slot machines are installed on overseas military bases
- Military exploited husband, didn't help him, soldier's widow says

By Drew Griffin
CNN

WASHINGTON (CNN) - A bill in Congress seeks to eliminate military slot machines overseas that take in \$130 million a year, mostly from soldiers.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tennessee, named the bill after Army Warrant Officer Aaron Walsh, a decorated Apache helicopter pilot who became addicted to gambling on military slot machines.

Walsh eventually was discharged from the Army. He committed suicide after several failed attempts to break his addiction. The Defense Department uses slot machine revenues to pay a small portion of its morale, welfare and recreation programs. Davis said the money raised off the gambling of soldiers is not worth the risks.

"If American men and women are willing to serve our country overseas we should not be dependent on them to pay for recreational activities they deserve," Davis said in a written statement. "The risks are simply too high and too many to ask that of our soldiers."

The bill's introduction comes after Walsh's story was featured in a CNN investigative report. His widow, Carrie Walsh, described how her husband's life spun out of control while the military refused to intervene. Watch interview with widow of gambling-addicted soldier's.

"The military has this culture of taking care of their own," Carrie Walsh told CNN. "But it seems like when it comes to this, they just profited from his addiction and then threw him away."

Carrie Walsh said that in 2005 her husband lost more than \$20,000 in military slot machines. He went AWOL, only to be found sitting in front of a video slot machine on a military post in Seoul.

He was forced to resign from the Army and spent time homeless on the streets of Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 2006, Walsh returned to Maine and tried to reconnect with his wife and their two small children, but his gambling addiction continued. On September 26, 2006, Walsh, 34, went to Maine's Baxter State Park and killed himself with a gunshot to the head.

The Army operates 3,000 slot machines on overseas posts, raising \$130 million in revenue each year. Other branches of the military operate their own gaming programs.

University of Illinois business professor John Kindt, who has studied gambling addictions and the military, agrees with Davis that the money raised is not worth the risk. He says the military should find other ways to entertain troops.

"It shouldn't be about exploiting our service personnel and putting families and their children at risk," he told CNN.

In a statement released by the Pentagon earlier this year, Undersecretary of Defense Leslye Arstht said gambling on bases and posts provides "a controlled alternative to unmonitored host-nation gambling venues and offers a higher payment percentage, making it more entertainment oriented than that found at typical casinos."

The Warrant Officer Aaron Walsh Stop DOD-Sponsored Gambling Act would prohibit the military from operating slot machines on military bases. The legislation was introduced Wednesday afternoon.

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