

From: The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts <sreid@lwmva.org>

Subject: Treasurer Cahill's Fact Free Slot Proposal

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League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Press Release

March 5, 2009

Slot Parlors are not the Answer

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2009

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League of Women Voters of Massachusetts' president, Diane Jeffery expressed alarm at the proposal announced by State Treasurer, Cahill, to license 3 "slot parlors" in Massachusetts.

While undoubtedly the state would receive some revenue from the projected licensing fees, there appears to have been little consideration of the effects of slot parlors on the State lottery, a major source of local aid, nor has there been any discussion so far as to how slot parlors, which would make Class 3 gambling legal in the state, would affect the plans for the Wampanoag to establish a tribal gambling site.

Ms. Jeffery stated "The League has done considerable research into the issue of state sponsored gambling and has learned that while casinos and slot parlors do bring in a certain amount of revenue, the cost of the many problems associated with gambling are far in excess of the benefits".

Furthermore, at a time when all citizens are suffering from the effects of the recession, establishing gambling facilities which offer little more than a chance for the patrons to be further parted from their money, can hardly be in the public interest.

The League strongly urges the Treasurer to withdraw this proposal and further calls upon the Legislature to reject consideration of any form of gambling as a cure for the state's financial woes.

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