



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114 · Tel: 617-523-2999 · Fax: 617-248-0881

Email: lwmvma@lwmvma.org · Website: www.lwmvma.org

June 11, 2007

Letters to the Editor
The Boston Globe
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205

To the Editor:

Once again, Joan Vennoch hit a bull's eye in her column on June 7, 2007, "Gambling fever's tight grip." Many can identify with the dangers to unsuspecting people, like her son, that lie ahead if the state relies on casino gambling to try to shore up sagging revenues.

What seems like a "painless" way of raising revenue, casino gambling will bring with it a myriad of problems that once upon us will not go away. Take note that Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey have needed to increase taxes to help address the problems brought on by the casinos in their states.

Small businesses near large casinos cannot compete with the heavily-subsidized restaurants and shops at the casinos, causing many to close. Indian tribes, as sovereign nations, are not required to provide good wages, benefits, and working conditions to their employees, again limiting benefits to residents, businesses, and municipalities in surrounding areas. The burden of caring for those who might become addicted to gambling will fall squarely on all taxpayers.

The list of reasons to stay away from bringing legalized casino gambling to Massachusetts goes on. Casino Gambling is not a quick fix. It is no fix at all.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Jeffery
President