

Video Keno Slot Machines?

DO WE WANT TO SEE NEBRASKA BECOME A MINI LAS VEGAS ??

#421 would allow UNLIMITED slot machines in over 600 Keno locations throughout Nebraska

Vote “NO” on Initiative #421

1. Just like meth and cocaine, slot machines are addicting

The ABC’s of addiction follow slot machines into our homes & neighborhoods:

- **Abuse:** Two years after slot machines were introduced in Deadwood, So. Dakota, reports of child abuse rose 42%, reports of domestic violence and assaults increased by 80% (1).
- **Bankruptcy:** After slots were introduced in Iowa bankruptcy filings jumped 34% in one year (2). Retail sales suffer and families join the welfare rolls in states with slots.
- **Crime:** In a survey of 400 Gambler’s Anonymous members, 57% admitted stealing to finance their gambling addiction, averaging \$135,000 per individual (3). Council Bluffs had the highest crime rate in Iowa three years after slots were allowed. (4)
- **Divorce:** When a spouse becomes addicted and the rent goes unpaid and the car is being repossessed there is havoc in the home and their children suffer.
- **Embezzlements:** \$120,000 from the Douglas County Treasurer Chief Deputy, almost \$500,000 from the Omaha Archdiocese in two separate cases, nearly \$100,000 taken from a client by a Council Bluffs attorney, \$13,000 stolen by a Geneva hospital CFO, all caused by gambling addiction (5).
- 60% of gambling machine revenues come from addicts (6).

2. Let’s learn from our neighbors

- Iowa is now burdened with a 5.4% addiction rate (7). Based on that number, slot machines would bring the misery of addiction to 65,000 of our fellow Nebraskans.
- Problem gamblers affect 7-17 innocent family members, friends, employers, etc which translates to 1.1 million people being adversely affected by video keno slots in Nebraska (8).
- Council Bluffs has raised taxes 4 times since the slots arrived (9).
- National studies show that for every \$1 gained in gambling revenue it costs a city \$3 in social costs (10).
- Legalizing even one slot machine allows Nebraska’s four Indian tribes to open full Las Vegas style casinos, untaxed under Federal law (11).
- South Dakota has fewer jobs, loses \$100 million in economic activity, and suffers 4,000 more crimes each year because of neighborhood slots (12). They’ve learned their lesson - repeal of slots is on the fall ballot.

3. Who do you trust?

* **Not the Keno operators** who will make millions off the heartache of Nebraskans

* **Yes, prominent Nebraskans** who care about our state and urge you to **vote “NO” on #421**, such as:

- Congressman Tom and Nancy Osborne, Governor Dave Heineman, Attorney General Jon Bruning, Senator Ben Nelson, Senator Chuck Hagel, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Congressman Lee Terry, Warren Buffet, Pete Ricketts, Archbishop Eldon Curtis, every major religious denomination in the state, and many other concerned citizens. These people care deeply about Nebraska. **Trust them.**
- CEO Warren Buffett says, “Some of the money will go to the state. It comes right out of the citizenry and it doesn’t do any development at all...net, **it’s a big loser for the communities.** (13)”

1: Drake Law Review, Vol. 43, 1994; 2: Des Moines Register, March 2, 2002; 3: Testimony of University of Illinois Professor Henry Lesieur, cited in the “National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report,” June 18, 1999, p. 7-13. 4: Omaha World Herald, December 8, 1999; 5: Various Omaha World Herald articles available on request; 6: Robert Williams, PhD, CPsych, and Robert Wood, PhD, University of Lethbridge, “The Demographic Sources of Ontario Gaming Revenue,” (p. 42), prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, 6/23/04; 7: Rachel Volberg, Gemini Research for the Iowa Department of Human Services, 1995; 8: John W. Kindt, Ph.D., Congressional Gambling hearing 1994; 9: Omaha World Herald 3/12/02, 4/12/06; 10: John W. Kindt, Ph.D., Congressional Gambling hearing 1994, & Earl Grinols, Ph.D., “Gambling in America”, Cambridge University Press, 2004; 11: Federal Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988; 12: Deloitte & Touche, “Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the South Dakota Gaming Industry,” for the SD Legislative Research Council, 12/8/98; 13: Video with Warren Buffett and Tom Grey, 2004.