

Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling

Founded 1977

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Executive Committee of Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling is deeply saddened by the possible passage of a bill that would increase the hours of gambling in Rhode Island. And if that happens, we call upon Governor Carcieri to live up to his statement that gambling should not be increased without the approval of the host communities. We wish to remind the Governor of the recent referendum in Lincoln that opposed the expansion of gambling by a nearly 2 to 1 margin. Likewise, the Newport City Council has repeatedly opposed the expansion of gambling as have repeated statewide referenda.

We believe that the RI General Assembly is poised to betray the majority of RI residents and so we call upon the Governor to veto such an irresponsible decision. The extensive testimony before the House Finance Committee was overwhelmingly opposed to the expansion of gambling. All night gambling will certainly increase the social ills that come from problem gamblers. Certainly there have to be better ways to balance our State budget than living off the backs of problem gamblers. Rhode Island already has the highest per capita income from gambling, more than any other State in the Union. Enough should be enough. Governor, listen to the voice of the people and veto any expansion of gambling in Rhode Island, even if the General Assembly will not listen.

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