

States' gambling support has failed

To the Editor:

How has governments' partnership with gambling failed?

- It has transformed gambling from a private and local activity into the public voice of American government, such that ever-increasing appeals to gamble, and ever-expanding opportunities to gamble, now constitute the main ways that our government communicates with us on a daily basis.
- It has failed to deliver on its promises to fund education, lower taxes or to pay for needed public services.
- It has taken political power away from the people and handed it over to gambling lobbyists.
- It has caused neighboring states — most recently Ohio — to compete against each other in a race to the bottom.
- It has spread addiction into our population, using the new science of machine design to produce out-of-control behavior that, according to scientists, closely resembles addictive behavior from cocaine.
- It has spread debt and bankruptcy into our population.
- It has led to serious gambling-related problems among young people.
- It has contributed to broken families and child neglect and other social messes everywhere it goes, and has taken little or no responsibility to clean them up.
- It has turned many law-abiding citizens into criminals who cheat, steal and embezzle in order to continue to gamble.
- It has lied to us by repeating again and again that luck — rather than work — is the key to the American dream.

This information was taken from Stop Predatory Gambling, a Washington, D.C., group campaigning to expose the failure of casinos and state lotteries.

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