

The Boston Globe

Gambling creates more addicts than jobs

September 26, 2011

THE ARTICLE [“Casino bill puts \\$25m focus on addicts”](#) (Page A1, Sept. 23) unfortunately left out the most important fact about the government’s predatory gambling program: Sixty percent of the profits from slot machines are taken from citizens who have been turned into gambling addicts - citizens just like Sandi Hall, who lost at least \$40,000 gambling over two years.

That was one of the major findings of the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, led by Kevin Harrigan, a respected researcher into electronic gambling machines.

We are told that the public benefit of government’s gambling program is to create jobs, but results show that gambling creates more addicts than jobs. According to the Illinois Gambling Board 2010 Annual Report, the number of people who have put themselves on a “self-exclusion” list to help them stay out of casinos because of gambling addiction - about 8,300 - is more than 20 percent more than the number of people employed by the casinos - about 6,900.

Casinos and state lotteries are a failed public policy.

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