

The Boston Globe

Support for industry has been documented

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IN HIS April 12 op-ed "[Loser-friendly casinos](#)," Leslie Bernal makes a number of highly debatable claims about gambling.

The fact is that gambling is an entertainment option enjoyed by millions of people from all walks of life who choose the activity because it is a fun, exciting experience.

Support for our industry has been documented time and again by peer-reviewed research findings. In fact, Bernal's claims about the predatory nature of our business collapse in the face of the results of a recent survey conducted for the American Gaming Association. The survey shows that 68 percent of residents in communities where commercial casinos are located would vote "yes" if a referendum were held to decide whether to keep casino gaming in their communities. If any further evidence is required to rebut Bernal's faulty premise, the results from this same survey show that, on average, 80 percent of Americans find gaming acceptable for themselves or others.

Plain and simple, the predatory industry Bernal describes does not exist. Just ask the millions of Americans who enjoy the entertainment we offer and the millions more who support our industry in their communities.

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