



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**Testimony before the Pennsylvania House Gaming Oversight Committee Hearing  
about the proposed Tuition Relief Act, HB 1317  
May 14, 2009 at Kutztown University**

Messrs. Chairmen and members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania to testify on this very significant proposal.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is opposed to the expansion of gambling in this state for several reasons:

- We think it is an inequitable way and therefore irresponsible way for the government to collect revenue.
- The government is intentionally relying on the seductive aspects of gambling that surely result in many people wagering way more than they can afford, thereby damaging themselves, their families and ultimately the larger community which often has to bear the costs of family support, bankruptcies and even incarceration for theft.
- The government is urging its citizens to fund the government by a process that is often damaging to citizens, but is at the same time in charge of monitoring the gambling operations to keep them honest. This is at best tightrope walking and a potential conflict of interest.
- Economically, the enormous expansion of easy access to gambling draws money away from other community businesses. This is happening at a time of recession when many businesses are suffering a reduction in income as are many families who can easily lose the rent or mortgage payment.
- Finally, how do the sponsors of this bill intend to handle the return of the \$50 million license fee to casino licensed operators, which Act 71 requires if the state increases the maximum number of licensed facilities? While the restaurants, clubs and taverns are not casinos, like race tracks, they would be facilities with slot machines.

Thank you for allowing me this time.

Kay McKenna, Administrative Vice President and Gambling Specialist, LWVPA

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