



My name is Steve Brunk and I'm here representing the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas. We regularly communicate with thousands of individuals and families across our state. Additionally, Family Policy Alliance works in conjunction with over 40 Policy Councils across the country to promote a state and nation where God is honored, religious liberty flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished.

To that end, we are here today as an opponent of HB 2173.

There are three main reasons we oppose this bill.

First, the moral and cultural degeneration that occurs around gambling has been widely documented in academic literature. Gambling, like drugs and smoking, has an addictive nature to it. Too many individuals fall victim to that addiction, resulting in personal calamity like debt and bankruptcy, job loss, and divorce. These ills in turn create a strain on community and government resources. The regressive nature of these pernicious effects means the harms disproportionately affect those who can least afford it.

Additionally, studies show that property values often fall around gambling facilities, causing long term economic loss to local units of government.

We ought not expose our communities to such potential degradation.

Second, we have concerns about the financial cost of this legislation. HB 2173 violates our non-compete contracts with the existing casino managers and opens Kansas taxpayers up to a huge penalty, estimated between \$100-\$120 million plus damages. That massive fine would be paid by the taxpayers directly to out-of-state casino managers. At a time of budget uncertainty, imposing another liability of such size would be unwise.

Finally, from a practical aspect, we would be working against our own state interests. The KS constitution says the lottery and now the "Expanded Lottery" (casinos and race tracks) must be state owned. Allowing a new vendor to open and operate a race track with slot machines would be competing against our own financial interests.

HB 2173 is a huge risk for Kansas families while the potential rewards inure to the benefit of out-of-state gambling facility owners/managers. It's a gamble the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas and our supporters implore you not to make.

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