



Alan Khazei's Approach to BIG CITIZENSHIP:  
A Blueprint for American Policy

## Opposing Predatory Gambling, Casinos & Slot Machines in Massachusetts

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Paid for by Citizens for Alan Khazei  
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**U.S. SENATE**

# Alan Khazei's Opposition to Casino Gambling & Slot Machines

## Guiding Principles

- We must all be deeply concerned about the influence of lobbyists and special interests in their pursuit of personal gain rather than the public good. Bringing casinos to Massachusetts would irrevocably change the nature of our Commonwealth, the very birthplace of American democracy. If we bring casinos to Massachusetts, we will never be able to reverse that monumental decision. Lobbyists and big corporate PACs are pushing this, but citizens can stop it. We have to fight the special interests.
- It is the special role and responsibility of Government to safeguard consumers from practices that greatly threaten the public health and safety. Americans have a right to safe streets, neighborhoods, and communities. In the marketplace, they require and expect good consumer protection against dangerous products and predatory schemes.
- Casinos undermine economic growth and have negative impact on communities including increased crime and addiction. They prey on the most vulnerable in society, including seniors, the economically disadvantaged, and those suffering from addiction.
- Extreme greed is at the root of our present economic crisis. Some have labeled it as “casino capitalism” – the use of predatory practices and financial gimmicks to promote an illusion of free money. Tragically, across the country, state-sponsored predatory gambling has led some Americans into a swamp of debt while handing a small number of schemers an obscene level of unearned power and wealth.
- A something-for-nothing scheme will not rescue our economy. We need to get back to basics: improve U.S. productivity, increase savings, reduce debt, strengthen families, educate our children, and invent more products and services to export.

## Key Facts

- Casino gambling cost taxpayers at least \$3 for every \$1 in benefits as a result of increased bankruptcies<sup>1</sup>.
- People who live within 50 miles of a casino, at least 1 out of every 20 people become a gambling addict<sup>2</sup>.
- Gambling also siphons money away from the traditional consumer economy, where an economic "multiplier effect" triples the value of every dollar spent by creating jobs that supply goods and services.<sup>3</sup>
- Money spent on gambling is not spent on consumer goods - cars, televisions, and washing machines. According to comprehensive studies, money that goes into gambling is primarily used to build more casinos, which spirals the negative impacts.<sup>4</sup>
- Casino workers are among the worst-paid in the U.S., with the median, hourly wage for casino workers at \$6.34 and median annual salary of \$13,179.<sup>5</sup>

- Studies find that 85 percent of all gambling revenues come from 20 percent of their customers who are problem gamblers.<sup>6</sup>
- Economists generally agree that gambling does not pump-prime an economy. Gambling does not create products or new jobs.

## **Alan Opposes Casino Gambling & Slot Machines**

At a time when the citizens of Massachusetts are suffering from high unemployment and the Commonwealth is looking for a way to shore up its finances, it is tempting to look for a quick fix. Alan understands that we can't solve all of our problems by bringing casino gambling to Massachusetts. He opposes any attempts to open casinos and install slot machines in our Commonwealth.

Casinos and slot machines seem like a good way to generate revenue, but they just don't make economic sense. According to the United States International Gambling Report Series, for every \$1 generated by casinos, society bears an extra \$3 of costs to address increased crime, bankruptcies, and other adverse effects. Retailers and other businesses also suffer, as money that consumers would otherwise spend on items like televisions and refrigerators goes to casinos and slot machines instead.

In this economy, people are hurting and need work. We can create good, high-paying jobs in green industries and clean energy, supporting small business and emphasizing health care, education, bio-tech, tourism, and other industries where Massachusetts has a competitive advantage. New gambling machines prey primarily on low-income families and people suffering from addiction—the very people who are struggling the most in this terrible economy.

Alan believes that it is the role and responsibility of the government to protect citizens from practices that threaten public health and safety. Like the tobacco and firearms industries, the gambling industry has no oversight from the government. If elected to the U.S. Senate, Alan will propose the creation of a National Gambling Regulatory Commission

Alan will also urge the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies to initiate a cost-benefit analysis of expanded gambling in Massachusetts before further considering the creation of an industry that would destroy our values and traditions

As a father of two young children, Alan doesn't believe that the children of the Commonwealth should grow up in a state with casinos. He urges Attorney General Martha Coakley and Congressman Michael Capuano to join him in taking a stand against casinos in Massachusetts.

### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup>Gambling in America: Costs and Benefits , Dr. Earl Grinols. 2005

<sup>2</sup>National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report, commissioned by the United States Congress, 1999

<sup>3</sup>Warren Buffett, CEO, Berkshire Hathaway, in 2004 television interview

<sup>4</sup>Predatory Gambling, Democracy and the American Dream: How the Massachusetts casino proposal is predatory, deceptive, addictive and undermines the purpose and promise of America

<sup>5</sup>[2007 National Compensation Survey](#), US Dept of Labor's Division of Labor Statistics

<sup>6</sup>Jackpot: Harrah's Winning Secrets for Customer Loyalty, Robert Shook; Pg. 236

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