



## The REAL Costs of Slots and Casinos

- **Costs to the Lottery**

**Reduced local aid:** According to a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce report commissioned in March 2008, if the lottery takes a 10% hit from the introduction of casinos and slots, as it is expected to do, state lottery transferred as state aid to towns and cities will be reduced by about \$90 million. Massachusetts cannot afford this hit to the Lottery.

- **Costs to Individuals and Families**

**Money is siphoned from the local economy:** Based on an analysis of average daily profits at Foxwoods in 2007, for the state to collect \$200 million in tax revenue, **40,000 people** would have to **lose \$234 every day, 365 days a year.** Massachusetts residents cannot afford to spend \$234 each day on top of all the money already spent on the most productive Lottery in the country.

- **Costs to City and Town Budgets**

**Expensive impact to host regions and municipal budgets:** Infrastructure, traffic, environment, housing, public safety, education, water and sewage, have been identified by four regional groups (western, central, metro-Boston, and the southeastern region) of planners and local officials as extraordinary costs that will occur with slot parlors and casinos that local taxpayers should not subsidize. Massachusetts towns cannot afford to underwrite the casino trade.

- **Costs to Local Economy**

**Hurts the local economies:** According to a New England Public Policy Center report in 2006, 85% of patrons live locally. When money is spent at slots and is not spent on movies, local restaurants, appliances, and home improvement, it leaves the local economy. The Boston Business Journal wrote that the claim that casinos will create 20,000 new jobs “is bogus because the diversion of billions of dollars in one sector is destined to cause job losses in other sectors.” Massachusetts businesses cannot afford to lose more revenue in this economy.

- **Costs to Taxpayers**

**Taxpayers subsidize the industry that doesn't pay for itself:** California taxpayers subsidized the gambling industry paying for a \$1 billion dollars per year of social costs related to slots/casino gambling. Australian taxpayers subsidized the gambling industry paying \$4.5 billion dollars of social costs related to slots/casino gambling per year. The Massachusetts Budget cannot afford to subsidize an industry that doesn't pay for its costs.

- **Costs to Law Enforcement**

**Expenses of Economic Crime Bill have not been calculated.** Attorney General Martha Coakley has warned the Legislature we do not have the legal framework and capacity to deal with the money laundering, gang and organized crime that will occur with legalizing slots and casinos. There is no funding earmarked for the equipment, surveillance, personnel, judicial and corrections budgets. Massachusetts law enforcement cannot afford this additional burden.

### *Slots are too costly for Massachusetts*

*United to Stop Slots in MA is an independent non-partisan organization made up of individuals and statewide organizations concerned about the future of the Commonwealth. We urge legislators to support a fresh independent cost-benefit analysis before voting to legalize expanded gambling slots/casinos.*