



Massachusetts
Family Institute

Dedicated to Strengthening the Family

Why Casino Gambling Is a Pro-Family Issue In Massachusetts

Not long ago, the attention of pro-family leaders and activists was firmly centered on the issue of same-sex marriage, and for good reason. The radical attacks on marriage's long-held definition as the union of one man and one woman directly threatened the family structure, cultural and societal mores and the general well-being of children. And while family, culture and children continue to be threatened by same-sex marriage and the battle to restore marriage continues, another pressing pro-family issue that affects family, culture and children has reared its ugly head.

The prospect of at least three resort-style casinos in the Commonwealth has become a political reality now that Gov. Deval Patrick has decided to seek state revenues through expanded gambling. However, the building of these casinos is far from a certainty. The fight over casino gambling has just begun, and the same pro-family activists who fought for the Marriage Amendment must step forward now and make the casino fight their fight.



Family – Casino gambling will directly impact the health and well-being of families in the Commonwealth. The U.S. Government's *National Gambling Impact Study Commission* found that problematic gambling and addiction doubles within a 50 mile radius of a newly built casino, and nearly all of Massachusetts, essentially 100% of the population, will be within 50 miles of one of the four possible casinos. Gambling addiction is linked to bankruptcy, home foreclosure, depression, and white-collar crime, all of which lead to family stress, and can lead to domestic violence, divorce, murder and suicide.

Culture – Massachusetts holds a special place in America's history and culture. From the early Pilgrims who settled here to escape religious persecution to the early patriots who planted the first seeds of rebellion against English tyranny, Massachusetts has a rich culture that is evident from the U.S.S. Constitution to the Freedom Trail to Plimoth Plantation to Old Sturbridge Village. This culture and history would be forever tainted and changed by casinos and their "Vegas morality." Furthermore, once casinos are allowed in the Bay State, they will never leave. Currently, Massachusetts license plates read "The Spirit of America" ... the building of casinos would do anything but uphold that motto.

Children – The best interests of children are at stake in the most important pro-family struggles of our day: sanctity of life, definition of marriage and moral relativism. Children are the future of civilization, and the most innocent members of our society, so we must stand up and defend them. The effects of casino gambling on children demand that pro-family activists stand in the gap. Gambling destroys lives and families, sets a bad example, and brings out the worst in society: greed, scandal, debauchery, drunkenness, deception, crime, addiction, and the list goes on.

Massachusetts Family Institute is the only state pro-family organization speaking out against casino gambling so stridently and we need you to join with us. Visit www.mafamily.org, download our gambling resources, and sign up to help us to defeat today's most significant threat to families in this state.