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Since 1990 those opposed to gambling have defeated ballot issues four times and twice in the last two years, the voters overwhelmingly said NO again in the last election. Penn National spent \$36 million to help defeat the MyOhioNow proposal. They've decided that they need the support of the Legislature and the Governor to help them convince the voters that they are not that bad. Voters have said no to slot machines at the racetracks, on riverboats, multiple casinos and last year one casino resort. All of these have one thing in common. That is the greed in their proposals. There has been no attempt to develop a fair sharing of the revenues or concern for the impact on low and middle-income families. One fact that is very clear about the gambling industry is that the House never loses, only the vast majority of players.

Let's take a quick look at the current proposal advocated by Penn National compared to the one they spent millions to defeat. The MyOhioNow proposal was giving county governments 28%; 2% for compulsive gambling and regulatory expenses making a total of 30%. Penn National has proposed to give the State 12.75% of profits; 10% to counties; 3% for college scholarships and 5% for enhancement of horse racing, regulation and compulsive gambling services. What do you know! The total is 30% and the casino owners keep 70%. Three attempts at expanding gambling in the last three years and every time the citizens of Ohio have said that you've got to be kidding! The reality is that gambling will never present a fair proposal any more than it gives the gamble a fair chance at winning. The House must never lose. 12.75% for the State will probably make the state a loser. Previous experience in other states indicates that when numerous casinos are introduced the lottery and keno revenues fall like a rock. Ohio's primary and secondary schools are losers along with the state.

We want to applaud Governor Strickland and Senate President Harris for recognizing that gambling that draws much of its revenue on the backs of low-income and addicted gamblers is not the stable source of funding that government should depend upon to provide services for its people. They both understand that good leaders must select judiciously between ideas and directions to improve Ohio's economy, but do no harm to our communities' businesses or citizens. It's not hard to realize that less than \$200 million for the state will not do much to fill a \$7 billion hole in the budget. It's like a young boy trying to fill a hole in a dam with silly putty. Each new casino or slot machine promoter argues that Ohioans did not say no to gambling but to the last proposal. The truth is Ohioans want real jobs that create an economy that spreads wealth and opportunity through the community not one that lines the pockets of the owners of gambling syndicates.

Revenues in gambling establishments have fallen across America in recent years. It is not just local businesses laying off employees but also casinos. Revenue projections by the promoters that are used to indicate how much the state might share are overly exaggerated by those trying to get a yes vote from citizens. The *Columbus Dispatch* in their current editorial concludes that gambling will do nothing to create the products and services that are the foundation of a healthy economy. Ohioans need industries that are net producers of wealth, not parasitic ones that suck wealth out of the economy.

How can the House take seriously any proposal that offers the state a paltry 12.75% of the profits? Don't waste your time! Instead consider passing a Constitutional Amendment for the November ballot that turns the 70%-30% around and says that if expanded gambling is ever approved by the voters it will be state programs that receive the 70%. This would undoubtedly slow the annual parade of promoters trying to fleece the citizens of Ohio with another greedy proposal. We will continue to actively oppose any gambling ballot issue that depends for the largest part of its revenue from those least able to lose and will further damage the small business community that create real jobs for Ohioans.