

Contact:
Evelio Silvera
Executive Director
636-399-2776 - direct



exposing the dark side of gambling

State Sen. Shields to massively expand gambling

Removal of loss limits to have dangerous consequences for Missouri

ST. LOUIS (2/5/07) – Sen. Charlie Shields has introduced legislation (SB430) that would expand gambling in Missouri by removing the \$500 loss limit. Casinos have successfully removed every protection against gambling addiction except one: the \$500 Loss Limit. Cruising riverboats, limited casinos hours, the docking requirements, all gone!

Missouri voters and legislators wisely put restrictions on casinos, recognizing the strong tendency toward addiction and suicide connected with gambling, along with the problems of crime, political corruption, and economic devastation for families. **Experts in gambling addiction treatment credit Missouri, because of the loss limit, as having a unique and wise approach to controlling the common destructiveness of gambling.**

Sen. Shields' legislation would lead to the largest expansion of gambling in Missouri in over a decade.

Most importantly, the loss limit is a significant deterrent to the use of Missouri casinos as a vehicle for illegal money laundering. Sen. Shields' own party platform states, **“The Missouri Republican Party supports the maintenance of Missouri's visionary casino loss limits to protect all citizens from terrorist and other criminal elements, laundering of cash capital used to fund their activities.”**

The idea that lawmakers would want to remove the loss limit which would expand gambling and threaten the economic stability and safety of their own constituents is a truly bad piece of public policy. The negative effects that this massive expansion of gambling would have socially and economically on Missouri far outweigh any of the potential benefits.

Casino Watch is the only Missouri watchdog organization solely dedicated to exposing the dark side of gambling. For more information please visit www.casinowatch.org (new website coming soon).

#####