

Weigh revenue of games vs. gambling addiction

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Gambling addiction: Have you given it any thought?

You should before you cast your vote on Dec. 5 (in Jefferson County).

The closer people live to gambling, the greater the likelihood of addiction, especially for those who work in the industry.

Many become hopelessly addicted. This can lead to bankruptcy, divorce, crime and suicide. West Virginia acknowledges this problem and provides help for addicts.

Our state allows various types of gambling - the lottery, racing, slots and table games - in order to raise revenue.

Because it receives a large share of gambling proceeds, West Virginia is in reality a partner in the enterprise, as evidenced by the state's promotion of the lottery and slots. Does it make sense that West Virginia should help create gambling addicts in order to fill state coffers?

For other addictions - tobacco, alcohol and drugs - the state strictly regulates access in order to discourage abuse. Government's role in a democracy should be to protect its citizens, not prey upon them.

The addition of table games to slots and racing at Charles Town will offer patrons a full menu of gambling options designed to empty their pockets and get them hooked. Picture Charles Town Races & Slots as a crack house, where the government splits the take with the drug dealers. The vote comes up, yes or no, to sell heroin as well as crack.

How would you vote?

Remember, the next gambling addict could be someone you love.

Is it worth the risk?