

RESOLUTION OPPOSING CASINO GAMBLING

WHEREAS, Georgia Republican legislators have introduced legislation that would allow for casino gambling in Georgia;

WHEREAS, The gambling bills now mask the negative connotations of casino gambling by referring to casinos euphemistically as "destination resorts";

WHEREAS, The usual arguments for opening the state to gambling continue to be, "this will create jobs" and "it is for the children" because it will generate revenue for Pre-K and for the HOPE scholarship;

WHEREAS, These reasons fail to overcome the substantial societal costs of gambling, which include (1) the break-up of families because gamblers are twice as likely to divorce as non-gamblers, (2) an increase in local crime by at least ten percent within five years or less after the establishment of a casino, including an increase in prostitution; (3) local job loss because local citizens change their spending habits, (4) an increase in bankruptcies, and (5) an increase in child neglect and domestic violence;

WHEREAS, All taxpayers, including non-gamblers, end up paying higher taxes for these publicly borne social costs;

WHEREAS, The proposed establishment of the gambling industry in Georgia violates free-market principles by instituting a politically protected industry that will drain customers from legitimate businesses not similarly protected;

WHEREAS, Once the gambling industry is allowed to operate legally in the state, its lobbying power will grow and its influence over legislators and local community officials will increase;

WHEREAS, Once the State of Georgia allows Class III gambling, the door would be opened for any Indian tribe to "venue shop" for property to open casinos on land that would be taken out of the governance of the State and off the local tax digest; and

WHEREAS, The State should not have a vested interest in predatory activities such as gambling for the sake of filling State coffers at the expense of ruined lives and broken families; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Delegates of Georgia's Gwinnett County Republican Convention, urge the members of the Georgia Legislature to cease and desist with any efforts to open the State of Georgia to casino gambling;

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Gwinnett County Republican Party be hereby authorized and directed to transfer a copy of this Resolution to the Gwinnett Republican House and Senate Delegations, The Honorable Casey Cagle, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Georgia, The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of the State of Georgia, and the Chairman of the Georgia Republican Party; and be it finally

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RESOLVED, That this resolution be posted in perpetuity on www.GwinnettRepublicans.com in a readily accessible location as a downloadable document.