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exposing the dark side of gambling

State Sen. Shields Makes Terrible Deal

Backroom deal for tax exemption of Terrible's Casino shows true intent of legislation

ST. LOUIS (2/26/07) – The Missouri Senate will soon vote on a proposal by Sen. Charlie Shields (SB430) that would expand gambling in Missouri by removing the \$500 loss limit. In addition, SB430, would place a 1% tax increase on casino revenues over \$30 million.

SB430 was originally opposed by Terrible's Casino because of the tax increase, but **it did not take long for Sen. Shields and Terrible's to strike a backroom deal to change the legislation in order to exempt Terrible's from paying the tax.** Terrible's Casino is now in support of Sen. Shields attempt to expand gambling in Missouri by removing the loss limit.

Sen. Shield's SB430 attempts to garner support for removal of the loss limit under the guise of creating a new scholarship for Missouri students.

However, Missourians continue to be skeptical of proposals to divert casino revenue to education, after the gambling hoax of 1994 promised all those dollars, which never materialized, for education in Missouri. Yes, it is happening again . . . **the scholarship, the number of students nor the amount of dollars are guaranteed in SB430.**

The deal struck between Sen. Shields and Casinos has led the Majority Floor Leader to turn his back on his own party's platform, which 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."**

Sen. Shields' "Smart Start Scholarship" is simply a "Terrible Deal" for Missouri. The negative effects that removal of the loss limit 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).

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