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For Immediate Release

“The House Always Wins”

Tomorrow morning, October 29th at 10:30am there will be a press conference hosted by Toledo Area Ministries, several area clergy members, and the Superintendent of Rossford schools. Located at the United Methodist Church (270 Dixie Highway) in Rossford Ohio, less than a mile away from the proposed Toledo casino site the conference will speak in opposition of Issue 3 and discuss the true nature of what casinos can and will do to the Ohio economy and social atmosphere. This information is based on a published research study by Hiram College on the Ohio Gambling Initiative. The study objectively addresses the economic and social effects of casino presence in a city. The study also addresses the previous findings by the University of Cincinnati College of Business and the elusive 34,000 new jobs that casinos will create.

The findings of the study show that a substantial portion of the 34,000 jobs are temporary, as well as low-paying and non-transferable skill-wise. The original economic study done by the University of Cincinnati was also limiting in that it did not take into account the effect a casino would have on surrounding local businesses. The Hiram research showed a likely net loss of jobs due to the nature of casinos, and their available food, lodging, and entertainment combined with their refusal to partner with local business. These effects can be seen in cities such as Atlantic City and Detroit where local business has seen a significant decline. The social effects are also bleak. Cities with casino presence see a significant spike in divorce rates and bankruptcies. Gambling addiction rates also double within 50 miles of a casino, and the presence of a casino within 10 miles of a home yields a 90% increased risk of becoming a pathological or problem gambler. These are a few of the several findings from the research, which ultimately concluded that Issue 3 should not be supported.

Besides the simple negative effects of casinos, the current proposed amendment has major loopholes including extraordinarily low gambling licenses, monopolies, and low tax rates, all in comparison to the gambling laws in other states. In this case, it appears the house will win and win big if the proposed amendment is passed.

*All facts and statistics were taken from a report by the Public Policy and Analysis Group at Hiram University.

For more information contact Rev. Steve Anthony at Toledo Area Ministries, 419-242-7401, santhony@tamohio.org.

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