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April 12, 1994

CATHOLIC BISHOPS STATEMENT ON GAMBLING

The expansion of the state's dependence upon gambling is a current and critical issue which we are compelled to address. We oppose the proposed expansion of gambling in the Commonwealth.

Our Church sees gambling as something neutral, a legitimate recreational activity when done in moderation. However, we also see that in gambling, there are dangers and abuses that warrant vigilance and concern.

We appreciate why the state is considering additional money from gambling to fund services to people. We acknowledge that many of our own educational and charitable programs have become dependent upon bingo and other games of chance. Our hope is that better stewardship will supplant dependency on these sources of revenue.

Casino/riverboat gambling will raise gambling to a new level in our Commonwealth. In addition, it can also encourage addictive gambling. The state should not depend on gambling for resources to pay for needed services.

We urge our state legislators to vote against these proposals.

+His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law
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+Most Reverend John Marshall
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+Most Reverend Timothy Harrington
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