Testifying in opposition to expanded legalized gambling in Texas. Texas House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures. Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Texas Capitol E2.012.

Young Conservatives of Texas oppose expanded gambling in Texas for the following reasons:

1. **Republican (conservative) voters have consistently opposed any expansion of gambling, and this position is enshrined in the Texas Republican Party Platform.** Representatives would be wise to respect the will of conservative voters.
2. **Expanded gambling will do nothing to address the current budget deficit.** It will take time for casino operations to become established which will push any potential revenue into future biennium. In the meantime, Texas will face immediate costs due to the need to expand the gaming commission or establish other regulatory capacity.
3. **Expanded gambling for the sake of “revenue” is a tax.** Efforts to draw more money from the pockets of Texans, whether done by compulsion or done by taxing their addictions and vices (alcohol, tobacco, gambling) amount to a tax increase. We should be committed to reducing the size of government and its interference in our lives, not financing its expansion with greater revenue collection (taxes).
4. **Expanded gambling will create social problems in our communities.** With current casino access hundreds of miles away, problem gamblers are kept in check, unable to gamble on a daily basis. However, with casinos and other entities in our backyards, many of the weakest in our society (including our elderly) will face the temptation to gamble away whatever they may have on a daily basis.
5. **A vote for expanded gabling is a vote for the long**-**term political suicide of conservatism in Texas.** By granting greater revenue to the gambling industry, the state will be creating a new and powerful stakeholder in Texas government. The gambling industry, because it is so intertwined with government and serves the role, essentially, of a tax collector, will have every incentive to influence elections and Texas government as the first and primary means of influencing their bottom line. Over the long-term, the gambling industry will do everything possible to move Texas leftward in an attempt to soften opposition to gambling and increase their profit margin.

For more information, please contact:

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