



**Consumer Credit**  
*of Des Moines*

Dear Governor Walker,

Congratulations on your re-election. You've fought hard and secured yet another victory!

In Iowa citizens are concerned with the expansion of gambling in our state and across our nation. I'm the Executive Director and co-founder of Consumer Credit of Des Moines IA and have seen firsthand the devastating effects gaming has on families. Let me give you a few statistics about convenience casinos, those that are most prevalent in Iowa.

With the arrival of casinos in Iowa, the percentage of addicted or pathological gamblers rose from 1.7% of the population to 5.4%. Recent legislation allows a pathological gambler to unban themselves from gambling after 5 years.

The effects of creating pathological gamblers in our midst show a wide range of social pathologies playing out. Among these pathologies are: 22% divorce due to gambling, 49% steal to feed the habit, 40% lose their jobs, 63% contemplate suicide and 18% attempt suicide. Highest suicide rate for any addiction as heroin is next closest with 9%.

During the fall elections we had a group of concerned citizens in Iowa attend potential presidential candidates' events and express to the potential candidates their concerns about expanded gaming in Iowa. Our mission was to explain the downside of casinos in our communities and the need to halt any expansion of gaming and casinos in Iowa, or anywhere else in the United States.

Attached for your review are 600 signatures of potential Republican caucus-goers that say *enough is enough* with expanding gambling.

Some of the more notable Republicans who have signed our petitions are Senator-elect Joni Ernst, National Republican committeewomen Tamara Scott, National Committeeman Steve Scheffler, Sherrill Whisenand, Co-Chair Polk County Republicans, Gloria Mazza, President Polk County Republicans Women, Gwen Ecklund, former Iowa Director of the National Republican Women, Steve Roberts, Former Iowa National Committeeman and many other prominent Republican activists.

As you are contemplating a presidential bid, I sincerely hope you will consider a "No Expanded Gaming" policy. We are sending the signatures with a similar cover letter to the other potential presidential candidates.

Thank you for your time.