

Governor Youngkin  
Address

Dear Governor Youngkin,

As stewards of our communities, we come together to voice our deep concerns regarding Virginia's House Bill 590 and Senate Bill 212. These bills, which aim to legalize "skill" games across our state, pose significant risks to our neighborhoods, families, and the integrity of Virginia.

Advocates for these unattended gaming machines argue they will boost tax revenue and support local businesses. However, the reality is far from the rosy picture they paint. Instead of fostering genuine economic growth, these machines divert consumer spending away from productive endeavors, potentially harming small businesses. It's the wealthy out-of-state corporations behind these machines who stand to benefit, preying on vulnerable communities and perpetuating cycles of poverty and despair.

The negative effects of these machines extend far beyond economic concerns. They tear at the fabric of our families, driving a wedge between loved ones and causing untold pain and suffering. Gambling addiction has devastating consequences, not only for the individual affected but for their entire family unit. Financial ruin, broken relationships, and emotional turmoil are all too common in households where gambling addiction takes hold.

The potential consequences of this legislation are alarming. If passed, it would inundate our communities with tens of thousands of unattended "skill" gaming machines, effectively transforming everyday establishments into makeshift gambling venues. This rampant proliferation of gambling machines poses a clear threat to the safety and ethical standards of our neighborhoods.

Already, we've seen the negative impact of similar machines in Virginia. Businesses that installed gray slot machines before the ban experienced a surge in criminal activity. Shootouts and thefts have become disturbingly common in areas where these machines operate, putting innocent lives at risk.

We ask you to stand up for Virginia's children, our most vulnerable community. Given their proximity to schools and residential areas, these machines would be easily accessible to minors, exposing them to harmful influences at an impressionable age. Not only will our children be surrounded by unattended slot machines, but they will also be in the crosshairs of criminal activities invited by these unattended mini-casinos.

We urge you, Governor Youngkin, to prioritize the well-being of our citizens over the interests of powerful out-of-state corporations, particularly the most vulnerable among us. We implore you to vote against House Bill 590 and Senate Bill 212, thereby safeguarding the sanctity of our

neighborhoods and protecting our families and children from the detrimental effects of gambling addiction.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving the residents of our state. Your dedication to upholding the best interests of our community is commendable, and we trust that you will make the right decision for the people you represent.

Respectfully yours,