

1                   CHAIRPERSON JAMES:   Kathy Morrell.

2                   MS. MORRELL:   Ladies and gentlemen, I'm  
3 here today to tell you what I have witnessed in my  
4 community as a result of the Massachusetts Lottery, in  
5 Chelsea. Hopefully in your tour yesterday you went to  
6 both poor and affluent neighborhoods where lottery  
7 sales locations exist.

8                   If you did visit Chelsea, for example, did  
9 you notice the numerous scratch tickets littering the  
10 ground? Or perhaps you wondered, was it truly  
11 necessary to have sales locations in Bellingham square,  
12 at a local drug store, a fruit stand, variety store,  
13 liquor store, laundromat, supermarket and two blocks  
14 away at a pawn shop? Did you question the Lottery's  
15 rationale for giving licenses to so many locations in  
16 such a small radius?

17                  I myself wonder why the poorest communities  
18 in the state have the most licensed Lottery sales  
19 agents or why some locations seem to be set up like  
20 mini casinos, with Keno, scratch tickets and the  
21 numerous so-called, special games.

22                  Then our legislature wants to bring casinos  
23 to our state, or at least put slot machines at Suffolk  
24 Downs, Wonderland or Raynham, or perhaps run a gambling

1 boat on the Charles River. What harm does this do, you  
2 might query? You are promoting gambling to our  
3 children like the tobacco and liquor did before ads  
4 were banned on TV and warnings were put on cigarette  
5 packs. Please issue warnings on tickets and vouchers  
6 at the track and all over casinos that gambling could  
7 be dangerous to your health.

8           The insurance industry will not pay for  
9 treatment of compulsive gamblers, rather they hide the  
10 issue by using an ICD code for depression, suicidal  
11 ideation or a similar mental health term. A greater  
12 number of women do not seek treatment because they do  
13 not have health insurance. If you are promoting an  
14 addictive compulsive behavior among our children and  
15 adults, do you not have a moral responsibility to fund  
16 treatment programs for those who have had their lives  
17 ruined by compulsive gambling? I believe, ladies and  
18 gentlemen, that you do.

19           Note the increase in bankruptcies in our  
20 area, the crimes of embezzlement, fraud and theft,  
21 which affects not just Fortune 500 companies but state  
22 and federal government as well. Are you so naive to  
23 think that among your co-workers no one has a  
24 compulsive gambling problem? Have you never seen Super

1 Bowl pools, March Madness tickets and all the rest of  
2 that stuff? Look closely at absenteeism on the job  
3 among your colleagues, divorce statistics, increased  
4 domestic violence, calls to the police, financial  
5 problems and lost jobs.

6           The impact is no different with casinos, I  
7 suggest you research the ATM transactions at the  
8 casinos, check writing policies that are in force and  
9 then go there at 3:00 a.m. and watch the people that  
10 are still there. Go to the Massachusetts Council on  
11 Compulsive Gambling and get their statistics, better  
12 yet, contact all the councils on compulsive gambling  
13 throughout our great nation and discover what an impact  
14 gambling has on our country.

15           You need to educate the public and fund  
16 treatment programs that have the same modality of  
17 treatment throughout the country. I believe this  
18 Commission has a moral responsibility to report the  
19 truth and in doing so, curb the expanded growth of  
20 gambling establishments. If you do not, generations of  
21 young people will believe that the spin of the wheel,  
22 the toss of the dice, the quick pick or a bet at the  
23 track can fulfill their dreams.

1                   Thank you for this opportunity to speak and  
2 I look forward to the National Gambling Impact Study  
3 Commission's report and your findings.

4                   CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, you got it  
5 all in didn't you?