



**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1164 *An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming***

**March 31, 2025**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Nick Adolphsen, and I serve as Executive Director of the Christian Civic League of Maine. I am writing to express our opposition to LD 1164, a deeply troubling proposal to expand online gambling—also known as "iGaming"—across our state.

This bill is more than a policy change—it's a moral shift with devastating consequences for Maine families, especially our young men. LD 1164 would legalize 24/7 casino access from a smartphone, putting high-stakes gambling in every home, school, and community center in the state. Online gambling is a predator. It preys on isolation, boredom, and desperation—and our sons are the primary target. With no guardrails, young people and struggling families can lose everything—money, hope, even relationships—before anyone realizes what's happening.

I want to highlight three reasons in particular that we oppose this Legislation.

**1. iGaming is bad for Maine people, and bad for Maine families.**

- **Young Men Hooked Fast:** [Studies show that 10% of 18–30-year-old men](#) already exhibit signs of problem gambling. This group is three times more vulnerable than older adults.<sup>i</sup>
- **Danger Amplified:** [Research suggests](#)<sup>ii</sup> that because of the anonymity, accessibility and continuous play/rapid bet technology, iGaming is for more likely to lead to addiction than traditional casino gambling.
- **Financial Ruin:** Young men are gambling away their futures. Nearly half admit to [betting money they couldn't afford to lose](#),<sup>iii</sup> with many sinking into debt before ever seeking help. And nearly [1 in 5](#)<sup>iv</sup> college students gambling with their student loans.
- **Spiritual and Emotional Toll:** [Gambling addiction is linked to suicide](#), drug use, and anxiety Families collapse under the weight of secret debt and betrayal.
- **Moral Consequences:** [Social media influencers glamorize online gambling](#)<sup>v</sup> to teenagers, conditioning them to chase quick wealth instead of cultivating biblical values like diligence, patience, and stewardship.

2. **This is an end run around the will of the Maine people and the Maine Legislature.** Year after year, the Legislature and the voters have said *no* to more brick-and-mortar casinos. So now, instead of buildings, the plan is to put a casino in everyone’s pocket—no overhead, no travel, no stigma. Just 24/7 access to gambling from homes, schools, community centers—anywhere. If Mainers have consistently rejected physical casinos, why would we accept one in every building and every phone across the entire state?
3. **If Maine needs more revenue, let’s focus on real economic development.** Let’s make it easier for families to start businesses and reward their success—not try to profit off their depression, debt, and brokenness. We don’t build a strong economy by draining hope—we build it by encouraging work, risk, and reward.

LD 1164 will not create opportunity—it will create orphans. It will rob children of fathers, drain the bank accounts of working families, and embolden an industry that profits off addiction. Maine should be protecting the vulnerable, not handing them over to corporate predators armed with addictive algorithms and false promises.

On behalf of the Christian Civic League of Maine I urge you to vote **NO** on LD 1164. Let’s stand against this digital trap before it destroys the next generation.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Adolphsen  
Executive Director

---

<sup>i</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/sports-betting-compulsive-gambling-addiction-d4d0b7a8465e5be0b451b115cab0fb15>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://yourlifeiowa.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Introduction%20to%20Gambling%20Treatment%20part%202.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/jan/31/how-the-quick-high-of-fast-food-gambling-ensnared-young-men?>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/society/article/one-in-five-students-loans-bets-problem-gambling-0mqp77vnp?>

<sup>v</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40429-025-00616-z>