

Are Slot Machines at Horseracing Tracks Desirable or Undesirable?



Eunju Gina Smith

We are going through tough times of economy right now.

I am writing about Governor Ted Strickland's decision about slot machines at horseracing tracks.

Even though gambling is not desirable thing in life, it's not desirable to take away all the undesirable things in life. Sometimes we have to use existing undesirable things to bring out desirable solutions. Here's my experience of tough time I am dealing with. I worked as a cashier at Marc's for over 7 years. Last February, I got fired and denied unemployment benefit at all. Therefore I became jobless and income less since Feb. My husband said 'you need to stand on your own 2 feet.' Thank God, I saved some money for rainy days. So I thought about what to do as a spiritual teacher and

healer and inspirational speaker in this situation. I decided to practice Jesus Christ's teaching on 'Seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. - Luke 12:31' I love to go to shopping for clothes and groceries whatever is on sale, actually I shopped at Marc's everyday after work, if I didn't shop for one day after work, I felt like I missed something. Many employees made fun of me about how much I love shopping. I responded to them "You guys, you never know what kind of deal I can find in that close-out section, I can find everyday some good deals." When I come home, my husband yells at me "We have so many stuff, stop bring so much junk home." I told him "Don't worry, I am going to give away and make people happy." But now, I don't have any income and live with my savings only. So I decided to cut down all the shopping, even stop at the Garage Sale is luxury for me, and when I go to grocery store, I buy only bare necessities milk and juice... And I use what I stored in the freezer and pantry for long

time, and many of them are expired. I didn't know how much stuff I stored away; probably we (me, my husband and my son) can eat that canned food for 6 months without any shopping at all except milk and juice. Therefore I am able to continuously give offering to churches and organizations I was supporting, without my husband's help. What I am saying is, in order to make things work in tough times, we have to use what we have, even undesirable thing could be usable to benefit of all. Of course, most gambling is very addictive and destructive; it is caused by greed in human mind. But you cannot stop them from gambling, how can you stop them from their greed. Gambling will exist for long long time until human greed ceases. Everyday 100's or 1000's maybe 10,000's Ohioans go to other States to gamble. I know a wealthy woman (Cleveland resident) and her friends went to Casino in West Virginia and lost over \$200,000 in June. They go there very often and I heard they are planning to go there again soon. Even though it is destructive but you cannot stop them. That's why limiting it to Horseracing Tracks is good idea where the gamblers go already. Usually most gamblers (not all of them) have money, it gives them chance to share their wealth with others unintentionally, and slot machine gambling is less destructive than many other gambling at Casinos. I am glad most

Ohioans voted down on bring Casinos in Ohio. And minimize it into Slot Machines at Horseracing Tracks. That's the reason I support Governor's decision. Hopefully, it can help our State to solve some tax increase and recession we are having as Governor said. I believe we have very thoughtful and wise leader with courage who can lead Ohioans in this tough times of recession. When I give you my point of view I don't expect anything. If you listen, it is good, if you don't listen, it is fine with me also. But it gives you an opportunity to think before you judge others, especially our Governor who carries so many burdens to resolve problems of our State of Ohio in this tough time of recession. I always encourage you to act on according to your understanding and desire to serve others and God. Here is how you can get understanding.

** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6 **

God bless you and God bless Ohio. My prayers are with you.

With Love,

Gina

July 13, 2009

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