



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# MI Education Community Opposes Prop. 1

*Proposal Threatens Lottery Funds For Schools;  
Represents Constitutional Power Grab by Casinos*

**LANSING, Mich.** – Education leaders from across the state warned today that Proposal 1 -- a plan to allow Indian and Las-Vegas owned casinos a monopoly on gaming in Michigan -- would seriously harm public schools and possibly force drastic funding and program cuts.

"Lottery revenues for schools will fall sharply if Proposal 1 passes," said Michael Flanagan, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Administrators and the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators. "We should not allow Indian and Las Vegas casino operators to wreak havoc on school funding and re-write our constitution just so they can rake in more millions in gambling profits."

Flanagan was joined by representatives of the:

- Michigan Education Association
- Michigan Federation of Teachers & School-Related Personnel
- Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principals Association
- Michigan School Business Officials
- Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association

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- Michigan Association of School Boards
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.

"Since 1972 the lottery has pumped more than \$11.6 billion into our public schools, with more than \$600 million contributed this year alone," said Justin King, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Boards. "In all, the lottery accounts for 5 percent of all school funding. If that contribution shrinks to 4 percent or 3 percent, where do we make up the shortfall? Or do we just say our kids aren't going to get as much?"

The educators pointed out that the proposal would effectively eliminate the state lottery's ability to create new games and, with them, new streams of revenue for schools. A recent study noted that, for a new game, the lottery would need approval from 1,700 separate jurisdictions.

"How likely is that?" said MEA Executive Director Chuck Anderson. "The Secretary of State reported that the casinos put more than \$8 million into getting this albatross to hang around our kids' necks. When is the last time casinos took that kind of a gamble if they didn't see a big payoff at the end?"

"I give them an 'F' for honesty," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, spokesperson for NO CasiNO MoNOpoly – Vote NO on Proposal 1. "The casino people are running around telling everyone that the proposal will require voter approval for all future gaming expansion, but they specifically exempted the Indian and Detroit casinos. They can still expand regardless of voter approval."

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**NO CasiNO MoNOpoly – Vote NO on Proposal 1 is a broad coalition of organizations and individuals – representing business, agriculture, education, organized labor and elected officials – strongly opposed to Proposal 1 and the constitutionally protected gambling monopoly it would grant to Indian and Las Vegas casino operators. For more information, visit [www.NoOnProp1.com](http://www.NoOnProp1.com).**