

# Nebraska State Legislature

**SENATOR JOHN S. LOWE SR.**

District 37  
State Capitol  
PO Box 94604  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604  
(402) 471-2726  
jlowe@leg.ne.gov



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Vice Chairperson – Executive Board  
Vice Chairperson - Committee on  
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Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
Urban Affairs  
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## **Nebraska Senators Issue Statement Opposing Efforts to Legalize Online Gambling**

Lincoln, NE - August 16, 2024 - Senators John Lowe, Ray Aguilar, Joni Albrecht, Robert Clements, Robert Dover, Steve Erdman, Steve Halloran, Brian Hardin, Rick Holdcroft, Loren Lippincott, Dave Murman, Rita Sanders, and Julie Slama issued the following statement concerning the expansion of gambling:

“Nebraska very recently legalized casinos largely on the promise of property tax relief that has failed to manifest itself. Expanding gambling further will inevitably lead to expanding the associated addictions and adds to more suffering in our communities.

Online sports betting turns every cell phone into a 24/7 handheld gambling device, leading to new addictions. The National Council on Problem Gambling reports the legalization of online sports betting has resulted in the risk of gambling addiction increasing 30%, with a 150% increase to their addiction helpline. The main demographic driving this increase is young people, with 20% of college students spending financial aid on gambling.

Any effort to expand gambling further or legalize online sports betting, be it a Constitutional Amendment or a statutory end-run, is a poison pill and will lose our support for the bill.”