



Two Prominent Labor Unions Join National Fight Against iGaming Expansion

SEATU and UFCW Local 27 Stand with NAAiG to Protect Jobs, Local Economies

PRINCETON JUNCTION, N.J. — April 1, 2025 — Two labor unions representing approximately 25,000 hardworking Maryland employees, including over 5,000 employees working at three of Maryland’s casinos, announced today that they have joined the [National Association Against iGaming](#) (NAAiG) to oppose the **jobs-killing expansion** of iGaming.

Citing concerns over significant job losses, weakened labor conditions and the threat iGaming poses to local economies, the national **Seafarers Entertainment and Allied Trades Union** (SEATU)—headquartered in Camp Springs, Maryland, and representing casino workers in Maryland, Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas—and **United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 27** (UFCW Local 27) in Baltimore, have joined NAAiG’s growing coalition to the fight to protect workers and preserve the in-person gaming industry that supports thousands of families.

“These unions represent thousands of hardworking men and women whose livelihoods depend on the strength and sustainability of in-person gaming, entertainment and hospitality venues,” said NAAiG board member **Mark Stewart, EVP & General Counsel of [The Cordish Companies](#)**. “They’ve seen how iGaming has cost thousands of good-paying, benefit-secured jobs—and these unions are stepping up to defend their members and the businesses they support.”

The top leaders at both unions agreed.

“Our members work in the casinos, hotels, and restaurants that keep local economies alive,” said **UFCW Local 27 President Jason Chorpennig**. “These are good, union jobs—often accessible to people without a college degree—that help people buy homes, support families, and retire with dignity. The unchecked growth of iGaming threatens to undercut those opportunities by shifting revenue away from local communities and into the hands of remote operators with little to no commitment to the workers or the regions they impact. We’re joining NAAiG because we’ve seen what happens when industries go digital without accountability, and we refuse to let our members pay the price.”



“We’ve been fighting for fair wages and job security in the gaming, hospitality and entertainment industries for decades,” said **SEATU Asst. Vice President Shane Sterry**. “iGaming doesn’t just threaten casino jobs—it threatens an entire ecosystem of workers who rely on foot traffic, guest services and in-person experiences to make a living. An app can’t replace these jobs. SEATU represents thousands of casino employees across gaming bargaining units in Maryland, Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas. We’re proud to stand with NAAiG to defend the workers and communities who have built these industries from the ground up.”

NAAiG was formed to oppose the expansion of iGaming, citing its well-documented economic and social harms. The organization urges local businesses, labor unions, and community groups to help protect their communities. Backed by multiple studies, including its [own recent report](#), NAAiG links iGaming growth to **rising problem gambling, job losses** and **serious economic setbacks** across the country.

Critical takeaways from NAAiG’s [report](#) include:

- **iGaming leads to major job losses**, with states like New York and Illinois projected to lose nearly 5,000 jobs each by 2029.
- **Thousands more jobs** are projected to be lost in states like Ohio (2,818), Louisiana (2,642) and Mississippi (1,906).
- **Annual wage losses are significant**, reaching nearly \$450 million in New York, \$300 million in Illinois, over \$200 million in Ohio and nearly **\$110 million in Maryland**.
- **Reduced employment** means lower state tax revenues from lost wages in all affected states, including Maryland.
- **Casino workforce cuts** stem from declining in-person casino revenue. Maryland alone is projected to lose **\$342.6M** in brick-and-mortar casino revenue by 2029.
- **Local economies take a hit**, with fewer jobs, lower income, and reduced public service funding across impacted states like Maryland, New York, Illinois and more.

“This is not just speculation,” Sterry added. “Data from regulators in neighboring Pennsylvania shows that nearly 3,700 casino jobs were lost after the launch of iGaming. Other iGaming states show similar impacts and concerns.”

Municipalities are paying attention.

Just last month, for instance, **Black Hawk, Colo.**, a city known for its brick-and-mortar casinos, **became the [first municipality to join NAAiG](#)**. Officials said iGaming jeopardizes jobs, public health and future investment in land-based casino development in the city.

With these additions, NAAiG continues to broaden its national coalition for support of in-person gaming, advocating for **a community-driven gaming policy** that prioritizes **jobs and people over profits**, Stewart said.



For more information about NAAiG and **the risks of iGaming expansion** [from its study](https://www.naaig.org), visit www.naaig.org.

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About NAAiG

The [National Association Against iGaming \(NAAiG\)](https://www.naaig.org) is dedicated to protecting communities from the risks of online gambling by advocating for responsible, in-person gaming. NAAiG works to preserve local jobs, ensure gaming integrity and promote economic reinvestment in local communities. Through advocacy, education and policy initiatives, the organization fights the expansion of iGaming, opposes predatory digital gaming practices, supports consumer protections and increasing law enforcement tools against illegal online gambling websites, and collaborates with policymakers to uphold transparency and responsible gaming laws.