Talking Points Against Lottery Ticket Vending Machines

I. Over 1,000 People Oppose Lottery Ticket Vending Machines and Fewer than 40 Favor Them.
   a. The voters of Arkansas established the lottery; why not listen to them when they say that they oppose this expansion of the lottery?

II. In Light of Overwhelming Opposition, the Commission Must Provide Compelling Reasons for Expanding the Lottery to Include Lottery Ticket Vending Machines.
   a. Lottery income has exceeded projections; why are machines necessary?
   b. Other states, like South Carolina, have successful lotteries without vending machines. Why does the Commission believe Arkansas’ lottery can’t be as successful as theirs?

III. Lottery Ticket Vending Machines Lead to Illegal Underage Gambling.
   a. Vending machines make it easy for minors to buy lottery tickets using a stolen or borrowed ID. However, if a store clerk is involved in the transaction, it becomes much more difficult for a minor to buy lottery tickets using someone else’s ID.
   b. Minors can easily find someone 18 or older willing to cash-in a winning lottery ticket in exchange for a portion of the winnings.

IV. Lottery Ticket Vending Machines Lead to Compulsive Gambling.
   a. The “continuous play” ability to play continuously with few interruptions is a well known factor in problem gambling and gambling addictions.

V. The Proposed Rule Changes are Deficient.
   a. Allows continuous playing of the lottery via machine, thereby contributing to addiction and problem gambling behavior.
   b. Lack of monitoring of the machines.
   c. If driver’s licenses are used as a means of age verification, what type of personally identifiable information will be gathered?
      i. How will it be stored, and how will it be used? The rules make no provisions for these concerns.

VI. The Lottery Staff and Commission Have Demonstrated a Lack of Transparency.
   a. They did not open a public comment period until Family Council made the machines a public issue.
   b. They did not schedule a public hearing until Family Council began gathering comments from the public regarding the machines.
   c. They did not publicize the public hearing until Family Council sent a Freedom of Information request asking how the hearing had been publicized.
   d. The lottery commission only received four public comments regarding lottery vending machines, while Family Council collected over 1,200.

VII. According to Lottery Officials, Each Lottery Ticket Vending Machine Will Cost $50,000.
a. This means that the Arkansas Lottery Commission has already spent $5 million dollars purchasing 100 machines. The Commission could have provided an additional $5 million in scholarships for students this year if they had simply not purchased the machines.

b. Paying for these machines is so expensive that they will generate no additional money for scholarships during the first year or two of operation.