

# CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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## A Special Session is called. Are slots next?

*The battle over expanded gambling has raged for years; now it has shifted to by-passing the people in a Special Session.*

After years of strong debate, various proposals of casino legislation, and advertisements about how much good expanded gambling will do for Kentucky, the theme has taken an almost surreal turn. A Special Session has been called during the sleepy summer months, and the plan is slots with some in the legislature wanting to bypass the citizens they always claimed to serve.

What is next on this roller coaster ride? Though Gov. Steve Beshear did not focus on the "slots-at-the-tracks" bill in his call for the Special Session, everyone in Frankfort knows that he can easily raise the

stakes and elevate the issue, even after June 15, when the Session has begun.

"We can't take any chances," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "Once gambling is authorized and gets its roots down, there is no stopping it, or the destruction it brings."

Foes of gambling

expansion are concerned about what legislative games might be played once the Special Session has begun. In times past, testimony against such legislation has been limited or denied altogether.

Martin Cothran, spokesman for Say No

To Casinos is upbeat. "I'm optimistic that the people of Kentucky will see it and react

to it for what it is: An unconstitutional bailout of some of Kentucky's wealthiest that will bring harm to the families of this state."

The Special Session could extend for more than two weeks but legislators are hopeful to be done before the Fourth of July weekend. Some simply want to cut the budget like busi-

nesses and families are having to do in a time of recession, rather than trying to

extract more funds from their constituents via gambling and enlarge government.

Others are committed to expanded gambling as the answer to Kentucky's economic woes, and this time its

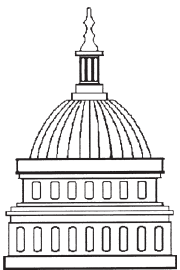
**"The concept of this slots-at-the-tracks plan is bad – it's predatory gambling pushed by government onto its own citizens. AND, this course of action is bad – it's a deliberate attempt to by-pass the people."**

– Kent Ostrander  
The Family Foundation

slots.

The ultimate question is whether the people will engage. That will determine all.

### Get Involved!



If you can help us get educational materials out to your church and community, please call us immediately at:

**(859) 255-5400**

### Rally in Frankfort Tuesday, June 16

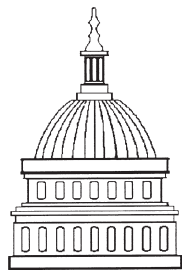
A Rally in Frankfort at noon on Tuesday, June 16 is being planned. (Early in the Special Session)

Get and share Rally information by calling or emailing us. (See contact information in boxes on the left and right.)

### Make a Difference!

For a daily "legislative progress" email during the two-week session, send us your email immediately at:

**tffky@mis.net**



**Kentucky**  
UNBRIDLED GAMBLING

# The slots plan is **H-U-G-E!** It dwarfs all other gambling venues in Kentucky **COMBINED.**

*It's been marketed as just another game for the Lottery, but it literally will replace horses as Kentucky's "Signature Industry."*

Most Kentuckians are not aware of the immense size of the slots proposal that is being pushed. Based on the Legislative Research Commission's (LRC) calculations, \$6.76 **BILLION** will have to be wagered in order to achieve the \$667 million of revenue that is claimed to be generated. Doing the math, that means Kentucky citizens will have to gamble \$6.76 **BILLION** and **LOSE** \$676 million each year. That's over 14 times the amount that is currently wagered at race tracks alone and almost four times what is currently wagered at race tracks, charitable gambling and the Lottery **COMBINED.**

Let this sink in: The wagering at race tracks will increase 14 times "overnight." All wagering in Kentucky must increase four times "overnight."

Using the projections of the plan's lead advocate, House Speaker Greg Stumbo, the numbers are even worse: \$12 **BILLION** gambled, \$1.2 **BILLION** lost. That amounts to over 25 times the current volume of gambling at race tracks and almost seven times the total amount currently being wagered at the "big three" gambling venues. More, Stumbo's \$12 **BILLION** gambled is almost \$3 **BILLION** more than the state budget!

Does everyone understand why the horse industry wants control?

What is even worse is that the track owners get the lion's share of the gross profits. And race winners get some, but the everyday horseman in Kentucky only gets the leftovers.

Back to the basic numbers to do more math. There are roughly 4 million

Kentuckians. Let's say as many as half will gamble at the slots (which is a very high number given that children under 21 cannot gamble), then the following figures are true:

Using the LRC numbers, 2 million citizens must wager \$3,380 each year. Using Stumbo's numbers, each of those 2 million will have to gamble \$6,000 each year.

Is this concept good public policy for Kentucky, or is it really only good for those who own the slot machines at the tracks?

## Expanding gambling **AND** addictions

*One will always cause the other.*

Kentucky currently has 35,000 pathological gamblers and 70,000 problem gamblers according to the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling. Pathological gamblers are unable to control their gambling and spend all they can earn, borrow and steal. The problem gambler has negatively impacted all areas of life, is frequently divorced, and has only marginal control over gambling.

The proposed \$676 million losses by slot gamblers (the Legislative Research Commission's estimate on losses, not Greg Stumbo's \$1.2 billion estimate) is larger than all current losses to Kentucky's three largest gambling venues: horse racing, charitable gambling and the Lottery **COMBINED.** In fact, the amount placed at risk will be four times the amount currently risked at those three, so a case could be made that addictions will quadruple.

With slot venues dotting Kentucky's landscape at its eight horse race tracks, it can be *conservatively* projected to at least double the number of pathological and problem gamblers. This means there will be at least another 35,000 pathological gamblers (and all the crimes they commit) and another 70,000 additional problem gamblers with ruined families.

The growth of addictions will mean at least 200,000 Kentuckians will be damaging or ruining their lives and the lives of their families by losing their homes, jobs, other assets and relationships. Over 200,000 families will be damaged in an ongoing way!

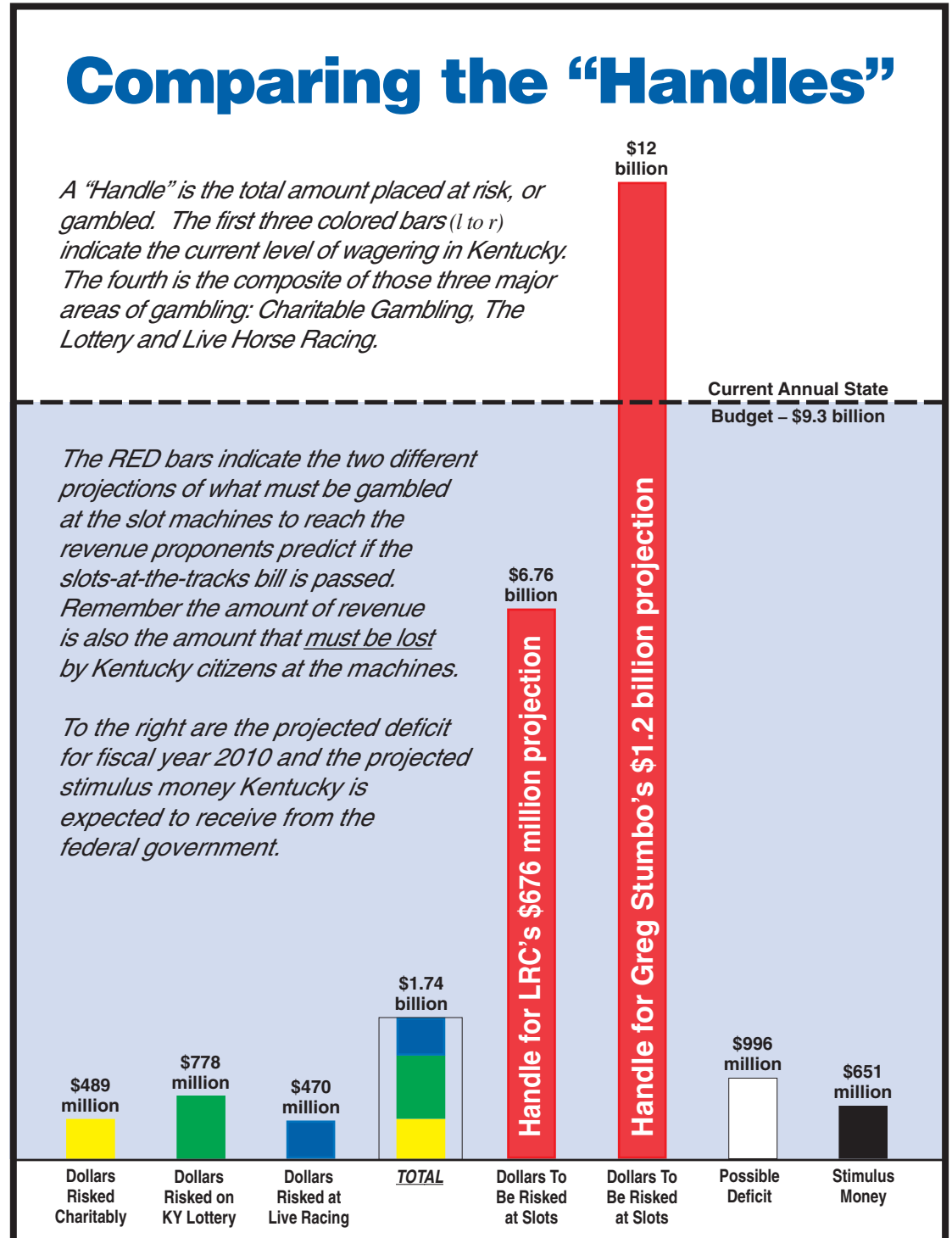
Is this the growth we want?

### Comparing the "Handles"

*A "Handle" is the total amount placed at risk, or gambled. The first three colored bars (l to r) indicate the current level of wagering in Kentucky. The fourth is the composite of those three major areas of gambling: Charitable Gambling, The Lottery and Live Horse Racing.*

*The RED bars indicate the two different projections of what must be gambled at the slot machines to reach the revenue proponents predict if the slots-at-the-tracks bill is passed. Remember the amount of revenue is also the amount that must be lost by Kentucky citizens at the machines.*

*To the right are the projected deficit for fiscal year 2010 and the projected stimulus money Kentucky is expected to receive from the federal government.*



# The Family Foundation pledges legal action

At a May 28 Frankfort news conference, Kent Ostrander pledges court case if the Special Session authorizes slots.

Editor's Note: Copied below are the prepared remarks offered by Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, at a news conference at the Capitol.

*“My purpose today is to speak in an affirmative way to assure Kentuckians that their case will be heard and, more importantly, that their place will not be forgotten. Though we wish no ill to Kentucky’s horse industry, there are those using it who want to rob Kentucky citizens of their assets through slot machines. In pushing to get their way, they are trying to rob those same citizens of their constitutional right to participate in this major decision for the future of the Commonwealth.*”

*The Family Foundation is committed to seeing that the constitution is upheld and will take legal action if the Governor calls a Special Session, adds expanded gambling to the call for the Session and oversees the passage of gambling expansion via the current unconstitutional slot-at-the-tracks plan.*

*The passage of any law, whether simple statute or constitutional amendment, has both a substance and a process component. We have always opposed the substance of expanded gambling efforts because it has government encouraging its own people to lose so that it (and its close friends) might gain. But with this effort, the process has been commandeered and is in violation of our state’s most important body of law – the constitution.*

*Allow me to digress into the details of the problem:*

*Please understand, both the letter of the law and the spirit of the law – of the State Constitution – are being violated by the current slots-at-the-tracks effort.*

*Regarding the letter of the law, the Constitution, as amended in 1988 by The Lottery Amendment, clearly forbids slot machines:*

*Section 226 Article 3 explicitly states, ‘**Except as provided in this section, lotteries and gift enterprises are forbidden . . .**’*

*The question can then be raised, ‘Does the lottery section authorize slots-at-the-tracks?’ Here is the actual ballot language of the 1988 Lottery Amendment:*

## **GENERAL ELECTION NOV. 8, 1988 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

**#1: Shall Section 226 of the constitution be amended to provide that the General Assembly may establish a Kentucky State lottery; may establish a state lottery to be conducted in cooperation with other states; and that any lottery so established shall be operated by or on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky?**

*It clearly never said anything about authorizing slot machines.*

*If you were to ask any aware Kentucky citizen at the time of that vote in 1988 whether the ballot measure included ‘slots-at-the-tracks,’ not one, whether for the Lottery or against, would say ‘Yes, it included slots-at-the-tracks.’*

*So much for the letter of the law.*

*Regarding the spirit of the law, ALL recent governors who have considered expanded gambling have asked for a constitutional amendment process so that the people would have their proper place of ratification or rejection after the members of the General Assembly passed their recommendation by a 3/5 majority in each Chamber. That includes Governors Brereton Jones, Paul Patton, Ernie Fletcher (he was never a proponent) and our current Governor, Steve Beshear. During his gubernatorial cam-*

*paign, Beshear was quoted as saying,*

**‘It is time to put this question on the ballot and let the people of Kentucky decide. As Governor of this state, I will make sure that the people have an opportunity to make that choice.’**

*(We at The Family Foundation would correct his verbiage because the actual process is for the legislature to agree to propose a constitutional amendment with super 3/5 majorities in both the House and Senate and THEN the people have the right and responsibility to ratify or reject the proposal. That requires legislators to be accountable for their recommendation to the people and allows the people to have the last word.)*

*Similarly, all opinions offered by Kentucky’s Attorneys General, except one, have consistently maintained that a constitutional amendment would be needed to expand gambling in the Commonwealth, and in particular, to bring casino-style slots into the state. That includes opinions by Robert Stephens, Chris Gorman and most recently, Ben Chandler, who concluded in 1999 very pointedly,*

**‘The Kentucky Constitution does not authorize the General Assembly to permit the Kentucky Lottery Corporation to operate video lottery terminals; therefore, such authority must be established by constitutional amendment.’**

*The fact that the current slots-at-the-tracks plan violates the constitution is reflected by the fact that even the horse industry has promised that the people would be involved in this issue with their major ‘Let the People Decide’ campaign. Only the opinion of Greg Stumbo, as Attorney General in 2005, suggests that the people of Kentucky can be by-passed in this process. He was the sponsor of the original Lottery Amendment in 1988 and he is the prime mover of this effort.*

*It is important to point out that during the debate of the 1988 Lottery Amendment, Rep. Bill Donnemeyer, who was advocating for the bill on behalf of Greg Stumbo, emphatically assured Rep. Louis Johnson from Owensboro that the amendment would ‘not allow for slot machines or anything like that.’ Speaker Stumbo, who was presiding as the Majority Leader at that time, did NOT correct Rep. Donnemeyer, which would have been his constitutional duty, given his sworn oath to uphold the constitution that they were attempting to change.*

*It is as though Greg Stumbo is on his own legal island – and from constitutional perspective, it’s a ‘Fantasy Island.’*

*In conclusion, I pledge that The Family Foundation will take all legal action necessary to stop this ‘slots’ effort that is attempting to by-pass the people of Kentucky, thus violating both the letter and the spirit of the law as written in our state constitution.”*

**NOTE: The likelihood of a lawsuit if the “slots-at-the-tracks” gambling plan is passed is no substitute for the bedrock American process of responsible citizens contacting their legislators to let their opinion be fully articulated and heard.**



# Will the Constitution become a casu

*An analysis suggests that in an effort to have their way, those pushing expanded gambling are willing to make exaggerated claim*

Those who have argued against the introduction of casino-style gambling in Kentucky have always pointed to a list of potential casualties that would follow from it. The list includes small businesses operating in areas close to casinos that would suffer lost business, local communities that would have to increase law enforcement to deal with increased crime, as well as problem gamblers who would have their problem made worse.

Critics of the plan say that we can add another potential casualty to the list: the state Constitution.

Last year, proponents of a casino bill talked of “letting the people decide” on the issue, portraying Kentucky’s constitutional ratification process as a ballot referendum,

which opponents argue is a completely different thing. This allowed lawmakers, they say, to shirk their constitutional responsibility to vote for a constitutional amendment because they think it’s a good idea the voters should ratify, rather than wash their hands in regard to the issue itself, and asking the people to do what the Constitution expects them to do themselves.

This year, the casino industry is back with a new message, and critics are charging that it is an even more

self-serving constitutional fiction: that the Lottery Amendment of 1988 authorized video slot machines. “This will come as news to the Kentuckians who actually voted for the Lottery,” said Martin Cothran, spokesman for Say No To Casinos. “Kentuckians were told they were not voting for other kinds of gambling.”

This wouldn’t be the first time a Lottery promise was broken, Cothran points out.

“For years after the Lottery was passed, many legislators confessed that one of the most frequent questions their constituents asked them was, ‘Whatever happened to the Lottery money?’ When the Lottery was passed, voters were told the money would go to education. Only ten years –

and many constituent phone calls – later did the General Assembly attempt to keep the promise.”

Backers of the new plan are promising the same thing: the money will go for education – and a few other things.

“After not doing what they said they were going to do with the Lottery money,” said Cothran, “they are now going to do what they said they were not going to do with the law itself: use it to justify other forms of gambling.”

When asked in 1999 to determine the constitutional status of placing video slot machines at Kentucky’s race-tracks, then Attorney General (now Congressman) Ben Chandler said, “. . . the Attorney General concludes that courts will not interpret the Constitution to authorize the General Assembly to permit the Kentucky Lottery Corporation to operate video lottery terminals.”

In fact, Cothran argues, every opinion rendered by a Kentucky attorney general on this or a related issue has found the same thing – except one. And that one was written by the sponsor of the video slots legislation: Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo. Yet in 2002, Stumbo told a reporter that he agreed with Ben Chandler that voters did not intend to include casino-style games in the Lottery.

“More evidence is in a pamphlet issued by the Legislative Research Commission to Kentucky voters in 1988 that said the state would be adopting a ‘modern day’ state lottery,” said Cothran. “A modern day state lottery in 1988 consisted of instant and online games, not electronic video machines.”

The question of whether the Lottery amendment would include other forms of gambling such as “electronic devices and slot machines” actually came up in the floor debate over the bill when Rep. Louis Johnson introduced an amendment to explicitly prohibit them. But bill sponsor Bill Donnermeyer assured Johnson that the Lottery Amendment

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**Break their promises? “If they do, then they can simply change their now abandoned slogan from last year, ‘Let the people decide,’ to a new one: ‘Let the people be hoodwinked.’”**

– Martin Cothran, spokesman for Say No To Casinos

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## “Slots” advocates lack credibility

*The actual revenue they claim keeps changing, and they’ve left Kentucky citizens out of the decision.*

Either the “slots-at-the-tracks” bill, (HB 158 in the last session), was rapidly growing in its ability to help all Kentuckians, *OR* its sponsor was telling everyone what they want to hear in order to get support for a lemon of an enterprise.

Regarding the plan’s real dollar value, House Speaker Greg Stumbo appeared on Jan. 3 on WKYT-TV *Kentucky Newsmakers* with Bill Bryant saying that the bill would “generate probably upwards of 500 million new dollars to the state of Kentucky.” A week later, on Jan. 10, he was quoted in an article by *Lexington Herald-Leader* writer Janet Patton saying it would generate \$700 million annually – a \$200 million *increase* in just over a week.

Then, in the Jan. 31 edition of the *Herald-Leader*, Stumbo was quoted by Patton again, this time estimating that state government would receive \$349 million every year, which by virtue in the formula contained in the bill, *\$1 BILLION* would have be the total “raised” every year. (The \$349 million would be government’s roughly 35 percent cut, making \$1 billion the full take.)

Even worse, also in late January, the *New Albany Tribune* and the *Jeffersonville Evening News* (Indiana) reported that Stumbo suggested *\$1.2 BILLION* could be raised. In essence, in less than a month and during a seriously declining economy, the slots plan had more than doubled the financial “good” that it will do.

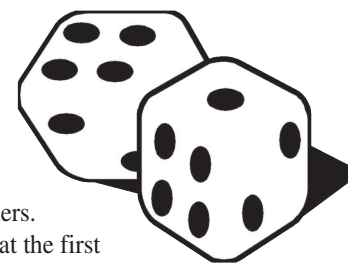
Many miss the painful fact that what the gambling industry calls “revenue” is actually “losses” by their customers. Detractors, however, understand the system and maintain that the first figure – \$500 million – was inflated badly, pointing out Kentucky citizens

cannot afford to lose \$500 million every year – *a half a billion dollars every year*. And again, they say with certainty that \$700 million could not possibly be lost by Kentuckians annually, and now they regard the \$1.2 billion figure as a joke.

Of equally great concern is the way the “revenues” will be divided. Government claims less than 35 percent, according to the plan. The new horse industry/lottery alliance gets more than 65 percent – basically twice as much as government.

Again detractors point out that legislators, if they really needed money for government, could simply raise taxes a small amount and 100 percent of that money would go to government. Instead, this plan gives two thirds of the money to the operators of the slot establishments/race tracks – folks who already are some of Kentucky’s wealthiest.

One of the biggest concerns for most Kentuckians is that they had always been promised that if casinos were coming to the state, they’d have an opportunity to vote on the issue. This approach bypasses citizens entirely, leaving many to believe it is a deliberate strategy by the pro-casino folks to get wh at they want without any hassle.



# Quality of the slots-at-the-tracks bill?

aims as well as now violate the very constitutional principles they once espoused.

“does not provide for slot machines or anything like that.”

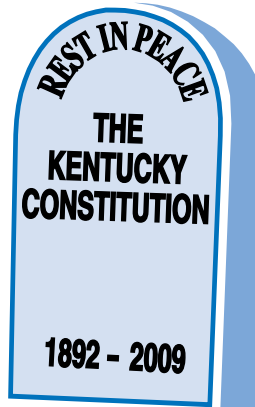
“That’s what the voters were told and that’s what the lawmakers who passed the amendment were told. Courts in states where the same bait and switch has been attempted have consistently ruled such laws unconstitutional,” said Cothran, “including courts in South Dakota, South Carolina,

Ohio, Florida, West Virginia, Kansas, and California.”

This doesn’t seem to bode well for a piece of legislation that will surely be challenged in court should it pass the General Assembly in a special session. History has not sided with those trying to expand the reach of the Lottery.

The Lottery Corporation tried in 1989 to implement a “Kentucky Sports Lotto.” But the Lottery Corporation backed off when a legal suit was filed arguing that it was unconstitutional. Cothran pointed out that the group who brought the suit was the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, a group that is now arguing exactly the opposite.

So are lawmakers going to do with the law itself what



they did with the Lottery money? Break their promises? “If they do,” says Cothran, “then they can simply change their

now abandoned slogan from last year, ‘Let the people decide,’ to a new one: ‘Let the people be hoodwinked.’”

## Kentucky Lottery celebrates 20-years

*The state boasts of “revenue” while some Kentuckians are simply losing.*

*The Courier-Journal* printed a story on April 7 announcing a celebration surrounding the Kentucky Lottery Corporation’s 20th anniversary. Commentators have suggested these Lottery Commission’s promotional announcements are just poorly veiled attempts at boosting predatory gambling’s image in the quest to bring slot machines to Kentucky.

What may raise eyebrows of gambling opponents and policy makers alike in the article is the poster child for the Lottery that the paper interviewed – Charles Conley.

“Charles Conley had stopped at the store on the way to his construction job. He said he has been playing the lottery ‘since day one.’ He said he usually spends \$20 to \$25 in the morning on lottery tickets and the same amount in the evening.

“I usually break even,” Conley said, adding that he wishes he didn’t spend so much money on tickets. “I’m trying to cut back, but I keep playing because of the possibility of winning thousands of dollars.”

**\$50 a day, 5 days a week = \$13,000 annually**  
**\$13,000 annually for 20 years = \$260,000**

The sad part is that this Kentucky construction worker is trying to “cut back” but is convinced by the Lottery Board’s ad campaign that he can win thousands.

David Edmunds of The Family Foundation expressed concern of the intent of policy makers. “When legislators arrive in Frankfort for a Special Session this summer, they must consider whether expanding the Lottery Board’s power to addict citizens to slot machines and bankrupt them during a recession is public policy that they can be proud of.”

## Why are slot profits just for one industry?

*The tracks and their owners are the biggest beneficiary of the slots plan, but they aren’t the only ones who are hurting.*

Ever since then Attorney General Greg Stumbo released an opinion in 2005 that expanding gambling does not require a constitutional amendment, gambling advocates have had an in-house discussion as to the wisdom of that approach. Supposing Stumbo’s opinion is valid (and many argue it is not), another question arises: If slots are an expansion of the Lottery, then why should the spoils go exclusively to the horse industry, *which is currently unrelated to the Lottery*? Why not allow current lottery vendors to participate? After all, their industry is hurting just as badly.

Ted Mason, executive director of the Kentucky Grocers Association & Kentucky Association of Convenience Stores, said the economy has hit convenience stores particularly hard. “Convenience stores had a rough year in 2008, especially with high gas prices,” Mason said. “As a result you will see many shuttered convenience stores across the state.”

High food prices also hurt grocery store sales in 2008. There are 625 supermarkets and 2700 convenience stores in Kentucky according to Mason. And there are 2860 lottery outlets across the Commonwealth. Isn’t putting food on the table and gas in the car tank just as important to Kentucky’s economy as horses?

Should slots go exclusively to the tracks, it will inevitably hurt Kentucky Lottery distributors. Research shows that casino expansion siphons money from state lotteries. Convenience stores dependent upon lottery sales are sure to lose out in

those areas closest to the slots.

At the time of this publication, the Office of Communications for the Kentucky Lottery Corporation refused to comment on the prospects of casino-style slot gambling and how it would affect individual retailers and Lottery revenue overall.

In George Orwell’s classic *Animal Farm*, the pigs proclaim that “all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” The pigs, of course, control the government and proclaim “absolute equality,” but the reality is that power and privilege go to their small elite. So how is creating a new exclusive “business” for the benefit of one industry justifiable?

Section 3 of the Bill of Rights in the Kentucky Constitution says, “All men, when they form a social compact, are equal; and no grant of exclusive, separate public emoluments or privileges shall be made to any man or set of men, except in consideration of public services, . . .”

Giving a special privilege to a single industry is constitutionally questionable. It is also a slap in the face to other businesses that have experienced the economic downturn. According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, 83 businesses shut down in Kentucky between January 2008 and April 2009. The closures resulted in the loss of 5,423 full-time jobs.

How do track owners justify slots? Track owners “are more equal than others.”

# Debate over the Supreme Court nominee raises the question “Where is policy made?”

*Early concerns and support are articulated as the process to confirm begins to take shape.*

The battle over federal judges, considerably quiet since Senate Republicans nearly invoked the nuclear option four years ago to break the Democratic filibuster of conservative judicial nominees, is about to resume. On May 26, President Barack Obama nominated federal Court of Appeals Judge Sonia Sotomayor. Critics say her tendency to legislate from the bench is cause for concern.

After Justice David Souter announced his retirement, President Obama indicated what he was looking for in a nominee when he said, “I view that quality of empathy, of understanding and identifying with people’s hopes and struggles, as an essential ingredient for arriving at just decisions and outcomes.” Sotomayor seems to perfectly fit his mold.

“I simply do not know exactly what the difference will be in my judging,” Sotomayor said in a speech in 2002. “But I accept there will be some based on my gender and my Latina heritage.”

Strict constructionists, those who believe the U.S. Constitution is a fixed document that precludes judicial activism, are concerned that she might put her feelings above the Constitution.

Manuel Miranda, chairman of the judicial watchdog group Third Branch Conference, said, “The President has nominated a highly-credentialed judge with an inspiring life story. Regrettably, he also tainted the nomination from its start by suggesting that his nominee would judge based on

personal feelings and background.” Constructionists like Miranda oppose judicial nominees who legislate from the bench because it undermines the democratic process and consolidates power in the judiciary. Judicial activism has also resulted in legalized abortion on demand and gay marriage.

In a 2001 speech at UC Berkeley, Sotomayor said it was appropriate for judges such as herself to use her “experiences as women and people of color” to “affect our decisions.” In 2005, Sotomayor gave her critics further cause for concern when she told an audience at Duke University that the “Court of Appeals is where policy is made.” Sotomayor is on record supporting affirmative action, believes the Second Amendment does not apply to individuals and thinks the U.S. should rely more on international law. Her position on abortion and gay rights is less clear.

George Washington University Law Professor Jonathan Turley reviewed Sotomayor’s opinions and told MSNBC that her opinions “are notable in one thing, in that it’s a lack of depth. There’s nothing particularly profound in her past decisions . . . You can’t say she’s a natural choice for the Supreme Court.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said, “Senate Republicans will treat Judge Sotomayor fairly. But we will thoroughly examine her record to ensure she



**Judge Sonia Sotomayor with President Obama and Vice-President Biden at the White House**

understands that the role of a jurist in our democracy is to apply the law evenhandedly, despite their own feelings or personal or political preferences.”

Of Sotomayor’s five decisions reviewed by the Supreme Court, three were reversed, leaving many to wonder if the judge credited with ending the 1995 Major League Baseball strike will be satisfied calling balls and strikes on the bench, or tempted to get into the game.

## What others are saying . . .

“This sends a strong signal that President Obama understands the importance of ensuring that our Supreme Court justices respect precedent while also protecting our civil liberties.” Cecile Richards, **Planned Parenthood Federation of America**

“We encourage the Senate Judiciary Committee to engage Judge Sotomayor and any future nominees to the Court on their commitment to the principles of *Roe v. Wade*.” Nancy Northrup, **Center for Reproductive Rights**

“Now it’s up to our Senators to avoid the distraction of attacks from the far right and work for a smooth, fair confirmation process. We urge them to confirm Judge Sotomayor with all deliberate speed.” Michael B. Keegan, **People For the American Way**

“. . . President Obama is committed to packing our federal courts with activist judges who will make policy according to their ‘feelings’ rather than the requirements of the Constitution . . .” Gary Bauer, **Campaign for Working Families**

“Judge Sotomayor’s failure to premise her decisions on the text of the Constitution has resulted in an extremely high rate of reversal before the high court to which she has been nominated.” Tony Perkins, **Family Research Council**

“A vote to confirm Judge Sotomayor as the next Supreme Court Justice is a vote to strip Americans of the ability to choose for themselves how to regulate abortion.” Charmaine Yoest, **Americans United for Life**

## Call Kentucky’s U.S. Senators with YOUR thoughts!



**Washington, DC – (202)224-2541**  
**Bowling Green – (270)781-1673**  
**Ft. Wright – (859)578-0188**  
**Lexington – 859)224-8286**  
**London – (606)864-2026**  
**Paducah – (270)442-4554**  
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**Washington, DC – (202)224-4343**  
**Ft. Wright – (859)341-2602**  
**Hazard – (606)435-2390**  
**Lexington – (859)219-2239**  
**Owensboro – (270)689-9085**  
**Hopkinsville – (270)885-1212**  
**Louisville – (502)582-5341**



# Spring marriage seminars set stage for more marriage conferences this Fall

The two *Marriage: It's Worth Saving!* seminars in April were wonderfully successful with attendees asking for more.

On April 21 and 23, The Family Foundation hosted “*Marriage: It's Worth Saving!*” seminars in Madisonville and Lexington, respectively, as part of efforts to encourage the Kentucky Marriage Movement. The one-day seminars brought together pastors, laypersons, community leaders, counselors and others with a desire to see marriages in their congregations and communities enriched and strengthened.

The featured speaker was Ron Ball, who discussed cultural trends and insights on how to explode a marriage ministry. He challenged attendees in their efforts to strengthen

marriage. “There are so many couples who are adrift,” said Ball. “They don’t know where to get help or direction. My purpose, passion and prayer is that the couples in your communities who need marital help will automatically think of your church as the place to go . . . You can literally transform a whole community through a marriage ministry.”

Ball also offered a “sneak peak” to one of his popular Honeymoon for Life© weekends, a marriage retreat that he and his wife, Amy, have presented to over 10,000 couples. Ball will once again join with The Family Foundation to present Honeymoon for Life© in the Fall of 2009. Events are tentatively scheduled in Lexington on October 16-17 and in western Kentucky on November 13-14.

“We truly want and need a ‘marriage movement’ in Kentucky,” said Sarah Roof, coordinator of The Family Foundation’s marriage efforts. “I believe this seminar was a good first step, and we are looking

forward to partnering with those who are passionate about revitalizing marriage throughout the Commonwealth.”

In her part of the presentation, Roof pointed to the discouraging statistics on marriage and divorce in Kentucky. “What’s troubling is that not only are fewer people choosing to get married,” said Roof, “but we continue to have one of the highest

divorce rates in the nation.” Roof points out that these trends have devastating and costly consequences for children, adults and society at large.

Executive attendees with some

Director Kent Ostrander provided practical solutions that they may use to recognize the importance of the marital relationship as well as to make a lasting impact on marriage in their church and local community. Such ideas included date nights or a sermon series on marriage.

To stay up-to-date on the Kentucky Marriage Movement, visit [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org) – a website initiative that serves as a touchstone to help unite church and community leaders in the

**“We truly want and need a ‘marriage movement’ in Kentucky . . . not only are fewer people choosing to get married, but we continue to have one of the highest divorce rates in the nation.”**

*– Sarah Roof, coordinator  
Kentucky Marriage Movement*



## The Kentucky Marriage Movement

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effort to proactively build strong marriages, healthy families and a generation of children who have both a mother and father shaping their lives.

### What attendees said about *Marriage: It's Worth Saving!*

*“It was a special time that was educational, inspirational and enjoyable.”*

*“I just wanted to say thank you for the great seminar . . . Ron Ball was an excellent speaker. I hope The Family Foundation will put on this type of seminar every year . . .”*

*“I wanted to let you know how much my husband and I enjoyed the conference - we thoroughly enjoyed hearing from all 3 speakers . . . We were certainly impressed with your efforts.”*

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# Alms for the rich

At a time when many Kentuckians are losing their jobs, being put on furlough by their employers, and can't pay their mortgages, it is hard to envision why some people might want to pass legislation that would fatten the bank accounts of the wealthy horse racing tracks and horse farms, most of which are not even owned by Kentuckians.

It's even harder to envision how they think they can do it in clear violation of Kentucky's Constitution.

The legislation, which could be taken up June 15 in the Special Session called by Gov. Steve Beshear, proposes to put video slot machines at Kentucky's horse tracks. Video slot machines are the most predatory form

of gambling, and they direct their appeal at gamblers at the low end of the economic scale. These are people who could never afford to buy the horse farms that would benefit from the money they lose.

The chief impetus for the bill comes from the horse industry, which has come, gold-plated cup in hand, and tried to convince state lawmakers that good public policy demands alms for the rich.

As one former state legislator likes to say, "When poor people beg, they do it on



**Martin Cothran is senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

the street corners. But when rich people beg, they do it in the halls of power." If the horse industry is in such financial straits,

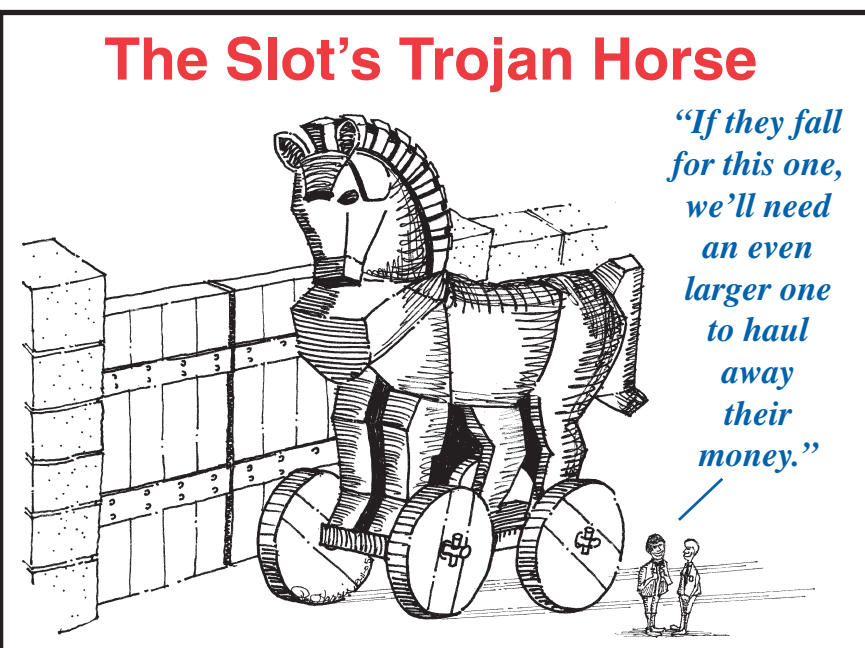
how can it afford the army of high-priced lobbyists it has sent to the state capitol? And where are they getting all the money they have dumped into the expensive advertising

campaign that has now hit television and radio across the state?

Maybe they really have had to sell off the Bentleys and dismiss the servants, but somehow, it seems unlikely.

The loudest voice calling for passage of the legislation is Churchill Downs, the state's largest horse racing track, and one which is almost exclusively owned by out-of-state investors. It argues that low purses threaten to kill horse racing in the state, which cannot compete with horse tracks in

**As one former state legislator likes to say,  
"When poor people beg, they do it on the street corners. But when rich people beg, they do it in the halls of power."**



## The Kentucky CITIZEN

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other states whose purses are subsidized by the profits from video slots.

If Churchill Downs is concerned about purses, couldn't it have used some of the \$121 million it recently lavished on remodeling the clubhouse on purses instead? In fact, if things are so bad, how could it have afforded the project in the first place?

But even if bailing out a rich industry by expanding gambling in Kentucky served some public purpose, it would run head-on into the state's Constitution. Up until the last legislative session, expanded gambling advocates were pushing for a constitutional amendment because they believed – like everyone else – that the voters in 1988 approved only a state lottery, not other forms of gambling.

KEEP, the horse industry's largest lobbying group, which has been calling to "Let the people decide" for several years, pledged it would only support legislation that guaranteed the money would go to education. Of course, this is in order to avoid a replay of anger over the Lottery proceeds never going to education, as voters were promised, until ten years later. And Gov. Steve Beshear said the following in his campaign for governor, a statement

that is still on his campaign's web page: "It is time to put this question on the ballot and let the people of Kentucky decide. As Governor of this state, I will make sure that the people have an opportunity to make that choice."

There was nothing in the ballot language of the Lottery Amendment even hinting that citizens were voting for video slots. In fact, not only did the Legislative Research Commission limit its discussion to instant and online games in its explanation to voters in 1988, but when the amendment was debated on the floor of the House, bill sponsor Bill Donnermeyer assured his fellow lawmakers that the Lottery amendment did "not provide for slot machines or anything like that."

The proponents of expanded gambling are again making big promises to the people of Kentucky. They would be a lot more believable if their record on keeping past promises wasn't so bad.