

# The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XVIII No. 4

July/August 2009

## Slots push defeated! Now “manipulation.”

*After their significant defeat in the June Special Session when they tried to by-pass the people, they are using new tactics.*

The individuals trying to bring casinos and casino-style gambling to Kentucky have used almost all of the proverbial “tricks in the book” to succeed. But with their failure in the Special Session this summer, a brand new one is being employed – the Governor is offering anti-casino senators jobs within the Administration to remove their vote from the Senate.

The tremendous magnitude of this summer’s victory over casino-style gambling is best illustrated with a brief look back over the history of this 15-year battle:

Ever since the horse industry, which once vehemently opposed any expansion of gambling, switched sides and signed on to the casinos-at-the-tracks vision, gambling

proponents had always said that they wanted to “Let the people decide.” They emphatically promised to do so by using a constitutional amendment, where, after the General Assembly approved the amendment, the people would have the final say by ratification or rejection. But when their constitutional amendment efforts failed in the 2008 Session, a third time in as many years, they evidently lost all hope of ever securing the 3/5 majority needed in both Chambers to pass a constitutional amendment.

So, in January 2009 they changed their strategy and initiated an effort to by-pass the people and bring slot machines into the state with a simple statute – *with only a vote of the legislature*. But that effort failed

too, in part because 2009 was an odd-year Session and, as such, requires revenue bills to have the same 3/5 super-majority in each Chamber to pass.

Yet during the Session, the handling of the gambling bill was illuminating. At the beginning of the Session, Speaker Greg Stumbo initiated the gambling bill, House Bill 158. But, even though it passed out of House Licensing and Occupations Commit-

tee *unanimously* very early in the Session (on Feb. 12), he pushed it no further. That sent a clear message to those in the know that he did not have the 60 votes needed in the House – the 3/5 majority. But more than that, it indicated he and the Governor were already planning a summer Special Session *at that time* because HB 158 was placed in a House Committee on Feb. 13 and left to die there.

Then, this summer, as they planned, the Governor called a Special Session to push the same bypass-the-people statute along with a few other bills for “cover” that they had deliberately carried over from the last day of the Regular Session.

There, in the Special Session, they added a new twist – they tried to “buy the votes” of legislators with promises of school construction projects in their districts. Stumbo even tried to call the new bill – House Bill 2 – a “Stimulus Bill,” but given the

national climate, the term bombed as expected.

Note: If an individual citizen offered money to persuade a legislator to vote a certain way, a felony would have been committed and at least one person would be going to prison. But, because it is public money – tax dollars – officials actually

**“Everyone knows you cannot borrow your way out of debt; you cannot spend your way to a balanced budget; and you cannot gamble your way into prosperity . . . But their strategy violated all three truths.”**

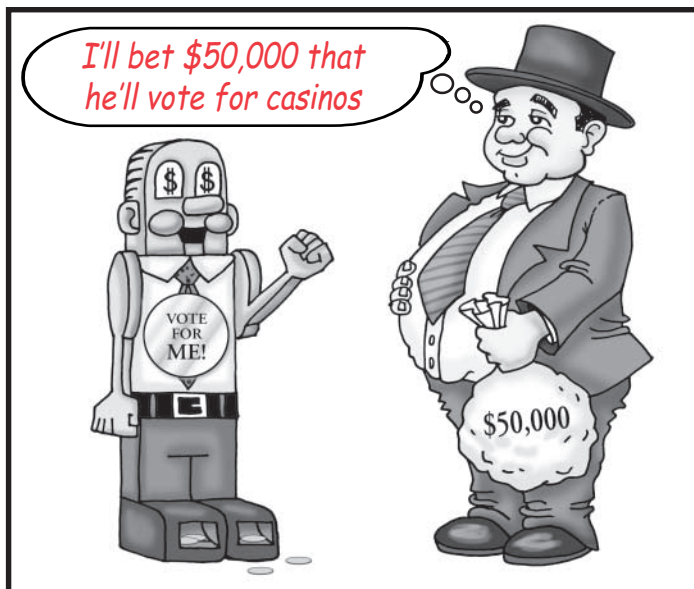
– Kent Ostrander  
*The Family Foundation*

can offer projects to entice legislators to vote a certain way.

Sleazy? Yes. Illegal? No.

Thankfully, “vote buying” failed too,

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Instructions: Drop influence money in slot**

Gov. Steve Beshear and House Speaker Greg Stumbo have agreed on the record that heart-breaking stories resulting from gambling aren't real, saying, “*these problems just don't exist.*” For more on two recent and well-reported testimonies of pain and tragedy see the stories on page 5. For more on the downhill spiral of state government's involvement in the gambling agenda see the story on page 4.



# Running for office: God's will for YOU?

In 1775 America was at a crossroads. British soldiers occupied the land, many quartered in private homes; American ports were strangled by a blockade; taxes levied without representation; and justice denied by the courts. The picture is one of tyranny, and the colonists being free men, chose to stand against it.

We stand on a similar precipice today where tyranny of another kind reigns. Human life is denied in the womb, political correctness threatens free speech, and the judiciary, untethered from the Constitution, makes up rules as it goes along – even depriving private property.

At the state level, common sense policies have been thwarted by narrow special interests. For the last two years abortionists have won the right to keep ultrasound pictures from women seeking abortion. Statewide strip club regulations, while on the books in surrounding states, have been blocked for the last decade. And public tax dollars have been used carte blanche to underwrite sexual immorality at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

Some argue that deterioration of government is a result of the seduction of personal peace and prosperity, leaving citizens with little interest to get involved. But can our freedom and liberty be maintained when good

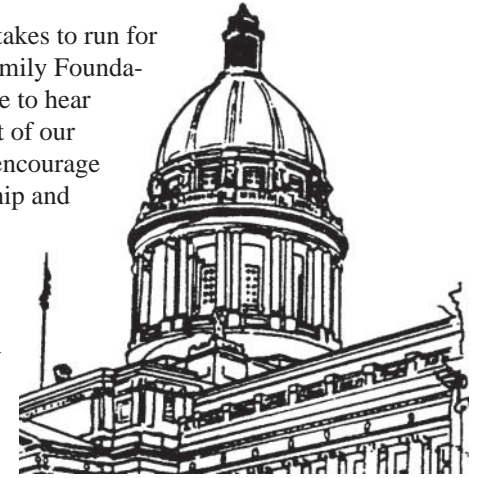
people do nothing? More to the point: Can our government at all levels be expected to do any better when God's people refuse to run for office?

Yet, many object to Christian involvement in civic affairs. "Separation of church and state" is the mantra, but it's not a Biblical idea. Romans 13:1 reminds us to "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." In other words, God establishes government. So who better to be involved in government than His people?

Government entails the idea of servanthood. A few verses past those referenced above emphatically states, "for it (a government ruler) is a minister of God to you for good" (Romans 13: 4). In fact, many countries call their government leaders "ministers." And government service can be a truly spiritual ministry today.

If our Founding Fathers were willing to sacrifice their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to give us this great country, what are we willing to do to maintain it? Certainly staying informed and voting are two ingredients to a healthy body politic. But have *you* ever considered running for office? Have *you* ever considered it an opportunity for ministry? If you would like to learn more

about what it takes to run for office, The Family Foundation would like to hear from you. Part of our mission is to encourage good citizenship and what better way to demonstrate civic participation than by the sacrifice of public service?



## Questions about running for office?

*For basic information, call us at:*

**(859) 255-5400**

## Now manipulation

*continued from page 1*

primarily because some legislators would not be bought. Rep. Johnny Bell (D-Glasgow) expressed indignation after a caucus meeting by telling his local newspaper reporter, "But I found out today we change the rules in midstream, and if a person is not able to vote for the gambling issue, then their school won't be built." HB 2 finally passed the House by a 52-45 margin, but failed to even make it through the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee. It was voted down 10-5 on June 22.

Having failed repeatedly in the normal legislative process, those officials who are carrying the gambling industry's burden are turning to what they have termed "a new revolution." Apparently "revolution" means removing some of the duly-elected, anti-gambling Senators by having the Governor use the power of his office to give them other lucrative jobs and then replace them by calling special elections.

Critics say this litany of blunders culminating in the summer Special Session is an absolute legislative fiasco. "It's a little sad – everyone knows you cannot borrow your way out of debt; you cannot spend your way to a balanced budget; and you cannot gamble your way into prosperity," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "But their strategy – borrowing \$1.3 billion for schools, spending that \$1.3 billion while we're broke, and doing it all on gambling proceeds – violated all three truths."

The Kentucky  
Marriage Movement

# Save the date!!!

## Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup>

Lexington  
October 16-17

Hopkinsville  
November 13-14

For more information on Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup>, read the stories on page 3 or call us at (859) 255-5400.

To register, complete and mail the form on page 3 or register online at [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org). Brochures are also available for distribution.

# Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup> seminars coming to Kentucky



*Part of the Kentucky Marriage Movement, these seminars focus on strengthening your marriage AND your marriage ministry.*

The Family Foundation is pleased to partner with Ron Ball to bring his popular Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup> seminars to Kentucky. The weekend marriage enrichment seminar will be held on October 16-17 in Lexington and November 13-14 in Hopkinsville.

Ball and his wife, Amy, conduct annual Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup> retreats. He has presented to more than 10,000 couples in 15 states and four foreign countries. A

Prestonsburg native, this marks the first time Ball will bring the event to his home state of Kentucky.

"I have a passion for marriage and a passion for Kentucky," said Ball. "I'm excited to join with The Family Foundation in bringing this 'home' and teaching couples how they can experience a new and deeper love!"

"Ron is a great communicator that can truly bless an audience," said Sarah Roof, coordinator of the Kentucky Marriage Movement. "We received a lot of wonderful feedback after he presented at our spring marriage seminars, and we're so glad that we can provide an opportunity for husbands and wives to hear his uplifting message about strengthening their relationship."

Roof was referring to the "Marriage: It's Worth Saving!" seminars that were held this past April in Madisonville and Lexington. At those seminars, Ball

offered attendees a small glimpse into one of his Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup> events.

The seminars were part of the Kentucky Marriage Movement, a project launched by The Family Foundation in the summer of 2008. The website serves as a touchstone to help unite church and community leaders in the effort to proactively build strong marriages and healthy families.

One of the goals of the Kentucky Marriage Movement is to encourage pastors and church leaders in their efforts to start or strengthen a marriage ministry. In addition to Ball's presentation, seminar attendees will receive ideas for marriage ministries.

"Some churches have a well-established marriage ministry," said

Roof. "But many do not, and we hope to provide new ideas for both."

"Couples will be encouraged in their own marriage journey," said Roof. "And some may be moved to take the next step in working to strengthen the marriages of those in their church or community."

Couples can register by Sept. 20 for a reduced rate of \$85 for the 2-day seminar. After Sept. 20, registration is \$100 per couple. Churches or organizations sending five or more couples can receive a group rate of \$75 per couple.

**Ron Ball has presented this seminar to more than 10,000 couples in 15 states and four foreign countries . . . this marks the first time he will bring the event to his home state of Kentucky.**

## Ron Ball slated as key speaker

*Former assistant to Charles Stanley, Ball leads business and marriage seminars.*

Ron Ball is a multiple success story. A Prestonsburg native, he has been a public speaker since age 15 and has presented live business training seminars to over 7 million people in 17 countries. He also served as an assistant to Pastor Charles Stanley of First Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Ron and his wife, Amy, have been conducting annual "Honeymoon for Life<sup>®</sup>" weekend marriage conferences for 10 years in which over 10,000 couples have learned new principles on enriching their marriages. They have presented in 15 states and four foreign countries.

TV director Jon Denny has called Ron "America's Relationship Expert" because of his work with Ron on his TV show "Men and Women Made Easy." Ron is also a best-selling author, having written 11 books on financial and life management that have sold over one and a quarter million copies.

In addition, a number of Kentucky pastors and couples have become acquainted with his message because of his presentations at the spring "Marriage: It's Worth Saving!" seminars that were held in Madisonville and Lexington in April.



**Ron Ball**

For more information, visit [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org). To register, complete and mail the form below or register online. Brochures are also available for distribution.

### Honeymoon for Life Registration Form

Check which seminar you would like to attend:

- October 16-17 - Lexington  
 November 13-14 - Hopkinsville

#### Registration Type:

- Early (by Sept. 20): \$85/couple  
 Regular: \$100/couple  
 Group Rate: \$75/couple\*

\*Group discount is available for churches sending 5 or more couples. Please indicate below which church you attend.

Husband & Wife: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Detach this registration form and mail with payment to:

**Kentucky Marriage Movement  
P.O. Box 911111  
Lexington, KY 40591**

Or register online:

[www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org)

For more information, call (859) 255-5400.

# Evidence mounts on the gambling lobby's influence over government officials



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Below is a chronological overview of what HAS BEEN and IS happening within the upper echelon of state government. With this simple time line, the serious control being exerted through elected officials by those pushing casinos and casino-like gambling becomes manifest.*

**February 2007** – Democratic gubernatorial candidate Steve Beshear announces his advocacy for casinos.

**April 2007** – State Treasurer and gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Miller ends his primary campaign, endorses pro-casino candidate Beshear, and days later flies to Las Vegas for what he terms “personal business meetings.” Beshear appoints Miller to be Democratic Party Chairman.

**2007** – Candidate Beshear raises \$7 million for his campaign, including huge sums from casino advocates.

**2007** – Casino interests contribute \$489,500 to the Democratic Party's Kentucky Victory Fund.

**2007** – Beshear supporter forms Bluegrass Freedom Fund, raises \$3.15 million to finance advertisements attacking Beshear's opponent and calling ostensibly for governmental “ethics reform.” Over \$2.2 million of the “ethics reform” fund came from casino supporters, including \$1 million from one person – Bill Yung, a casino company CEO who recently lost his New Jersey license and was sued by investors for reckless management.

**November 2007** – Beshear wins election and proclaims casinos can produce \$500 million in new taxes but his claim is unsubstantiated except by casino advocates.

**December 2007** – Several pro-casino individuals, including casino owners who have lost their operating licenses in two states, make \$10,000 donations to Gov. Beshear's \$766,000 inauguration celebration fund.

**December 2007** – Anti-gambling and freshman State Rep. Brandon Spencer (D-Prestonsburg) suddenly and unexpectedly resigns just weeks before the beginning of the 2008 General Assembly, leading to the subsequent special election of Greg Stumbo, historically the state's most aggressive pro-casino legislator.

**January 2008** – Gov. Beshear releases his state budget proposal, calling for government agency funding cuts, suggesting casinos could provide new tax dollars.

**January 2008** – Gov. Beshear repeats his projection that casinos will raise \$500 million in tax revenue, but is contradicted by a legislative study that projects only \$300 million.

**January 2008** – Gov. Beshear hand-picks a pro-casino candidate to replace Lt. Gov. Mongiardo in the State Senate. Roger Noe, the locally favored candidate and

Letter to the Editor, Hazard Post, January 25, 2008

*To the Democrats of Harlan, Bell, Leslie, & Perry Counties:*

*I'm Roger Noe, a lifelong Democrat from Harlan. I tried to become your candidate to fill the seat vacated by Daniel Mongiardo. What I didn't realize was that Governor Beshear, Lt. Governor Mongiardo, Leo Haggerty, and Chester Jones had already chosen the Democratic candidate, and they did it in the most dishonest way possible, they rigged the election against Democratic policy. With the aid of Beshear's appointed head of the Democratic Party, Jennifer Moore, Scott Alexander was given the nomination. Leo Haggerty was given a \$50,000 a year job for his part, and I'm just waiting to see how Mongiardo awards Chester Jones.*

*I still believe in Democratic principles, but I am disappointed to have to say that I have no faith in our current Kentucky Democratic leadership. They have insulted the intelligence of the Democrats in our counties, and are strong arming public officials for support in furthering their dishonest agenda.*

*We Democrats were deceived by Beshear/Mongiardo, and the rest of the state should be prepared for the same treatment. Unless you vote responsibly we will be haunted by more of their immoral corruption of Democracy.*

— Roger Noe  
Harlan, Kentucky

former legislator who was rejected by Beshear, goes public in a letter to the editor of his local newspaper before the special election, writing “They . . . are strong arming public officials for support in furthering their dishonest agenda.” (The Governor's candidate loses the election to the anti-gambling expansion candidate.)

**February 2008** – Bill Yung, the casino CEO who contributed \$1 million to Bluegrass Freedom Fund, acquires northern Kentucky commercial property and states his expectations to compete for a gambling license.

**February 2008** – Gov. Beshear suggests sales of casino licenses could produce “several hundred million dollars” in revenue during the current budget cycle.

**February 14, 2008** – Gov. Beshear announces massive 12-casino plan that is far larger than he had ever discussed. It includes casinos at race tracks and free-standing casinos as well.

**February 26, 2008** – The House Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee meets to consider and presumably pass the “Casino Amendment,” but there are several votes on different versions of the bill and all fail.

The committee members are in disarray and an abrupt vote is taken to adjourn. Later that day Rep. Dottie Sims is removed from the committee by the Speaker of the House because she voted contrary to his preferred version of the amendment. She is replaced by two pro-casino members and the amendment passes favorably out of committee the next day.

**March 3, 2008** – Newspapers and state blogs report missing Capitol visit sign-in logs that indicate that casino CEO Bill Yung had met with the Governor in early January even though the Governor denies such a meeting.

**April 2008** – The casino legislation dies because of lack of support by House members. (To prevent embarrassment, it is never brought to the House floor for a vote.)

**January 9, 2009** – Speaker Greg Stumbo announces plans to run a non-constitutional amendment that will authorize slots at the race tracks under the Kentucky Lottery. He is the only (former) Attorney General that has ever opined that a constitutional amendment is not needed.

**February 3, 2009** – To pass his slots initiative, the media reports that Stumbo consults with former Rep. Jerry Bronger (D-Louisville), who went to prison for taking gambling-related bribes in the 1990s' Operation BOPTROT scandal. Bronger pleaded guilty in 1992 to taking \$2000 in bribes from lobbyist Bill McBee regarding a racetrack gambling bill.

**February 12, 2009** – House Bill 158, Stumbo's bill, passes its House Committee unanimously *BUT IT*

*NEVER MOVES!* Observers believe that since an odd-year short Session of the General Assembly requires 3/5 majority to pass a revenue bill and everyone knew there were not 60 votes in the House to pass HB 158, a summer Special Session was planned and manipulated from the beginning of 2009.

**March 2009** – The 2009 Session closes without a gambling bill passed . . . and without several bills that were ready to be passed on that last day. The House simply refuses to act.

**April thru early June 2009** – The horse lobby initiates major media as well as news campaign arguing that much of the horse industry will leave the state if it doesn't get relief.

**April thru early June 2009** – The Governor's office initiates major campaign saying the state will experience an almost \$1 billion shortfall if it does not get relief.

**May 29, 2009** – Gov. Beshear announces plans for a Special Session beginning June 15.

**June 3, 2009** – The Governor makes official call for the Special Session for topics dropped at regular Session end.

*(Continued on next page)*

# Two more casualties of gambling surface

*The Governor and the Speaker have said “these problems just don’t exist.” Unfortunately, the news media report otherwise.*

## Family destroyed, bankruptcy, then suicide

Another gambling-related tragedy occurred the very weekend before Kentucky’s State Senate would vote on expanded gambling through slot machines. Dr. Stanley Lowenbraun, a prominent Louisville oncologist was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a casino hotel room on June 20.

Lowenbraun’s downward spiral over years left a trail of devastation that included bankruptcy, family break-up, and criminal charges. His cancer practice once grossed \$7 million annually but he was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1999 after gambling away \$8 million at casinos and racetracks. Louisville lawyers said they believed his \$13 million bankruptcy case was the largest ever in Louisville triggered by gambling problems.

According to the *Courier-Journal*, Dr. J. David Richardson, a Louisville surgeon and thoroughbred owner, remembered Lowenbraun as a “major horseplayer, with all the good and bad that implies.” The paper also reported in 2001 that Lowenbraun continued to gamble at Churchill Downs three years after filing for bankruptcy.

“Dr. Lowenbraun’s tragic suicide illustrates why we work so hard against expanded gambling,” said David Edmunds, policy analyst for The Family Foundation. “It is heart-breaking and ironic that I focused on the problem of suicide linked to gambling in my testimony before the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee on June 22, not realizing this tragedy had occurred just two days prior.”

## Gambling lobby *continued from page 4*

**June 4, 2009** – The Governor adds gambling to the call of the Special Session.

**June 15, 2009** – House Bill 2, sponsored by Speaker Stumbo, is introduced on the first day of the Special Session.

**June 15, 2009** – Attorney General Jack Conway, having been asked on May 18 for an opinion as to whether slots-at-the-tracks can be implemented without a constitutional amendment (without the people’s final ratification), announces his perspective. So, on the first day of the Special Session (just four weeks after the request), Conway, whose office maintained that he had six months (until October) to respond, “surprisingly” announces his opinion – he agrees with the only other Attorney General’s opinion that says it’s “Okay” to pass slots as a simple statute – Greg Stumbo’s 2005 opinion. All other Attorneys General had concluded a constitutional amendment was needed. Important point: As it turns out, Stumbo is the highest-ranking Democrat endorsing Conway in his 2010 run for the U.S. Senate. (*What a coincidence.*)

**June 16, 2009** – House Bill 2 does not receive the support it needs from legislators in the House so a \$1.3 billion school spending program is announced to secure more votes. Rep. Johnny Bell (D-Glasgow) says, “But I found out today we change the rules in midstream, and if a person is not able to vote for the gambling issue, then their school won’t be built.” (Note the irony – the Session is called because of an almost \$1 billion budget shortfall and yet the gambling bill is promoted by the spending of another \$1.3 billion.)

**June 19, 2009** – HB 2 barely clears the House in a 52-45 vote. (51 votes were needed.)

**June 22, 2009** – HB 2 fails in a Senate Committee in a 10-5 vote. Pro-gambling House leaders cry foul.

**July 10, 2009** – Rumors from Frankfort say Sen. Charlie Borders (R-Grayson) will be offered a state job by the Governor. Observers believe it is because of his anti-gambling vote and the Governor’s plan to change the Senate so he can have control.

**July 15, 2009** – Sen. Borders resigns. The Governor arranges a quick election cycle so, according to observers, his Party can control the outcome. The election date is set for August 25 – leaving less than six weeks lead time.



Given the various manipulations that casino proponents have been offering Kentucky citizens at this time, Internet bloggers accused the *Courier-Journal* of burying the story for over a week until after the Kentucky General Assembly had voted on the expansion of gambling in the Commonwealth.

Edmunds pointed out that while a deliberate withholding of a news story is possible, it usually takes a few days for information regarding a suicide to be released.

Academic research consistently indicates that increased suicide rates coincide with the expansion of gambling, yet spokesmen for the gambling industry refuse to acknowledge this reality. In fact, during a live televised debate on June 8 when challenged about serious consequences of expanded gambling, Gov. Steve Beshear and House Speaker Greg Stumbo, who are working closely with gambling officials, whole-heartedly agreed that “these problems just don’t exist.”

“Sadly, this proves Stumbo and Beshear could not be more wrong,” said Edmunds. “The very lives of Kentucky citizens and the well-being of their families are at stake.”

“... suicide rates were up to four times higher than in comparably sized cities where gambling is not legal.”

– NEW YORK TIMES reporting on a study by Dr. David Phillips, professor of sociology at the University of California

## Basketball, fame and fortune . . . now debt

Once again the entangling web of gambling has lured another high-profile victim into its net, but this was a net far different from the one with which he was familiar – one that hung under a basketball rim. Unfortunately, now Antoine Walker, former All-star NBA player and starting forward of UK’s 1996 National Championship team, is facing criminal charges related to almost a million dollars in gambling debts.

The Las Vegas district attorney’s office has filed a criminal complaint against Walker alleging he failed to pay back \$822,500 in gambling debts.

Walker, 32, is charged with three felony counts in passing \$1 million in bad checks to three Las Vegas casinos. Walker wrote the checks to take out credit markers to continue his play at the casinos. Each charge carries a 1-4 year prison sentence. He was finally arrested July 16 at Harrah’s Casino in Stateline, Nevada. According to police, a Harrah’s employee who had seen a TV news report on Walker approached a deputy on foot patrol. Walker was then arrested at a bar inside the casino.

His bail was originally set at \$905,050, but it was later reduced to \$135,000, which he has met and is now awaiting court proceedings.

These criminal charges are the latest in a string of problems for Walker. He was charged with suspected drunken driving in January of this year and two years ago gained notoriety when he was bound at gunpoint while assailants took a car, cash and jewelry from his suburban Chicago home. The 6 foot 9 inch power-forward has said he would like to return to the NBA, but these criminal charges generated by and adding to his gambling problems may block his opportunity.



# Health Care: **CHANGE** you can believe in?

**1. ABORTION:** Pro-choice groups, like NARAL and Planned Parenthood, are demanding that abortion be covered in any healthcare reform bill and key officials refuse to rule out this possibility. A pro-life amendment to prohibit funding of abortion lost 11 to 12.

**Question for your Congressman:** *Will you oppose any healthcare reform bill that uses my tax dollars to pay for abortions?*

**2. EUTHANASIA:** In a recent *New York Post* column, Betsy McCaughey, former lieutenant governor of New York and health care expert, fears a provision compelling seniors to submit to a counseling session every five years about alternatives for end-of-life care invites abuse.

**Question for your Congressman:** *Will you oppose any healthcare reform bill that in any way promotes euthanasia?*

**3. COST:** The United States faces a debt crisis. According to many analysts, including Sen. Judd Gregg (who is highly respected by President Obama), the Obama budget will give us \$11 trillion of debt at the end of five years and \$17 trillion of debt at the end of ten years.

**Question for your Congressman:** *Why is Congress and the President pushing through a healthcare bill that would cost trillions more over the next ten years? Shouldn't we concentrate on getting the debt under control first?*

**4. RATIONING CARE:** According to a July 15 report by *The Hill*, "The House bill would be paid for by roughly \$500 billion in Medicare and Medicaid cuts..." Cuts coming while more are retiring can only mean one thing: rationing. In addition, Obama's advisors, such as Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, brother of Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, confirm the rationing idea, writing that "services provided to individuals who are irreversibly prevented from being or becoming participating citizens ... should not be guaranteed. An obvious example is not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia."

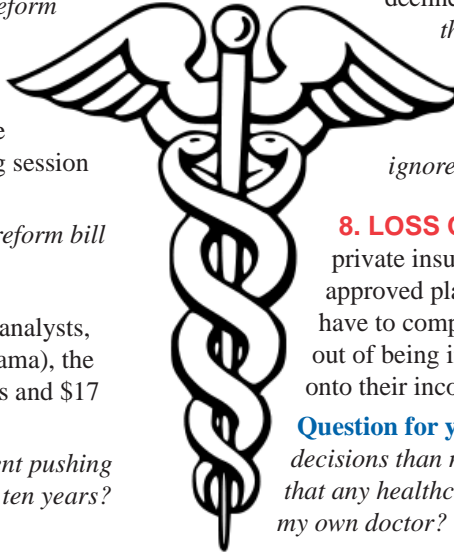
**Question for your Congressman:** *How can government promise to do more with less? Will you oppose any healthcare reform bill that in any way limits my access to healthcare or medicines recommended by my doctor?*

**5. MORE BURDENS ON SMALL BUSINESSES:** In addition to the current 15% payroll tax, the 9.5% (and rising) unemployment rate can only be made worse with the healthcare bill in the House that imposes a new 8% payroll tax on small businesses with payrolls of \$400,000 or more that don't provide health insurance for their employees. Clearly, struggling businesses will likely lay off workers to avoid this tax. But, if the tax is cheaper than health insurance, larger businesses may opt to cancel their health insurance, forcing employees into the government's "public option," and simply pay the 8% fine.

**Question for your Congressman:** *Why are additional mandates and taxes on small businesses, which create the overwhelming majority of new jobs, being imposed in the middle of a severe recession?*

**6. QUALITY CARE:** American healthcare is better than that in European countries with socialized medicine. German cancer mortality rates and prostate cancer mortality rates in the U.K. and Norway are absurdly higher than in the U.S. Canadian healthcare lags behind as well with waits twice as long as they are in the U.S. Most Americans say they are satisfied with the U.S. health care system, but more than 70% of Germans, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Britons say that their systems need "fundamental change" or "complete rebuilding."

**Question for your Congressman:** *Why is Congress forcing us in the direction of more government involvement in healthcare when everywhere government-run healthcare has been tried, quality declines and care is rationed?*



**7. THE PEOPLE ARE BEING IGNORED:** According to recent Rasmussen and *Fox News* reports, only 23% of voters believe healthcare reform will lower costs—leaving 53% who predict more expensive care. Further, by a margin of 50% to 23%, voters predict a decline in the quality of care. Finally, polls indicate most people, believing their health care satisfactory, see this as an issue Congress is focusing on too much that will also increase taxes for the middle class.

**Question for your Congressman:** *Why is this bill being rushed through Congress and the concerns of the American people being ignored?*

**8. LOSS OF FREEDOM:** Eventually, this healthcare law will drive out private insurance companies and will force all Americans into a government-approved plan. After a five-year grace period, every new insurance policy will have to comply with government mandates. Further, anyone who chooses to opt out of being insured for their own personal reasons will have a 2.5% tax slapped onto their income.

**Question for your Congressman:** *I don't think bureaucrats can make better decisions than me about what kind of health insurance I have. Will you guarantee that any healthcare reform bill passed by Congress will always allow me to choose my own doctor?*

**9. PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS:** While Obama has claimed, "no insurance company will be allowed to deny you coverage because of a pre-existing medical condition," common sense counters with, "what if someone gets a car accident and then demands car insurance gained after the wreck pay for their wreck which happened before?" Some may wait to have an accident before buying insurance.

**Question for your Congressman:** *Isn't it clear that this provision would drive up the cost of health insurance for everyone?*

**Our legislators are home on break.  
Speak your concerns.  
Ask your questions.**

**NOW is CRITICAL!**

**Sen. Mitch McConnell**

(202) 224-2541 Washington, D.C.

Regional Offices

(270) 442-4554 Paducah

(270) 781-1673 Bowling Green

(502) 582-6304 Louisville

(859) 578-0188 Fort Wright

(606) 864-2026 London

(859) 224-8286 Lexington

**Sen. Jim Bunning**

(202) 224-4343 Washington, D.C.

Regional Offices

(800) 283-8983 Toll Free

(859) 341-2602 Fort Wright

(270) 885-1212 Hopkinsville

(270) 689-9085 Owensboro

(502) 582-5341 Louisville

(606) 435-2390 Hazard

(859) 219-2239 Lexington

**Dist. 1 – Con. Ed Whitfield**

Hopkinsville: (800) 328-5629

or (270) 885-8079

Henderson: (270) 826-4180

Tompkinsville: (270) 487-9509

Paducah: (270) 442-6901

**Dist. 2 – Con. Brett Guthrie**

Bowling Green: (270) 842-9896

**Dist. 3 – Con. John Yarmuth**

Louisville: (502) 582-5129

**Dist. 4 – Con. Geoff Davis**

Ft. Mitchell: (859) 426-0080

Ashland: (606) 324-9898

LaGrange: (502) 222-2233

Maysville: (606) 564-6004

Williamstown: (859) 824-3320

**Dist. 5 – Con. Hal Rogers**

Somerset: (606) 679-8346

Hazard: (606) 439-0794

Prestonsburg: (606) 886-0844

**Dist. 6 – Con. Ben Chandler**

Lexington: (859) 219-1366

# Saving lives – one baby, one mother at a time

*The steadfast workers at Kentucky's pregnancy care centers are putting words and convictions into action.*

When the Gallup organization released a poll last May indicating that a majority of Americans identify themselves as pro-life (51 percent), it revealed something that many Kentuckians knew all along: the pro-life message is paying off. More importantly, pro-life sentiments are not just lip service; they correspond to practical efforts that are saving lives.

Since 1990, the first year of mandatory reporting for abortion in Kentucky, abortions have plummeted from 10,921 to 4,315 in 2007. Life advocates attribute the 60 percent decrease to education efforts. "More women today know that it's a life, not a blob of tissue as many were told for years by abortion advocates," said Kaye Munday, director of Alpha Alternative Pregnancy Care Center in Hopkinsville.

The decline in abortion directly correlates to the growth in pregnancy care centers (PCCs), which encourage abortion-vulnerable women to choose life for their unborn child. In 1990, just a handful of centers were in existence across the state. Today, 42 life-saving centers are working to spread the pro-life message, and their efforts are paying off. Since their inception, PCCs have counseled and helped convince thousands of Kentucky women to choose life for their unborn children.

A critical component for many of the PCCs is promoting the message of sexual abstinence in the middle and high school classroom. Jeanmarie Parrott, director of Marsha's Place PCC in Henderson has seen the results of teaching the abstinence message. "I know that abstinence education works," Parrott said. "I talk to them, I see them firsthand, I see the exit surveys . . . I do believe that we are making a dent in kids' lives." Last year Parrott worked in six different public schools and reached 2000 middle and high school students.

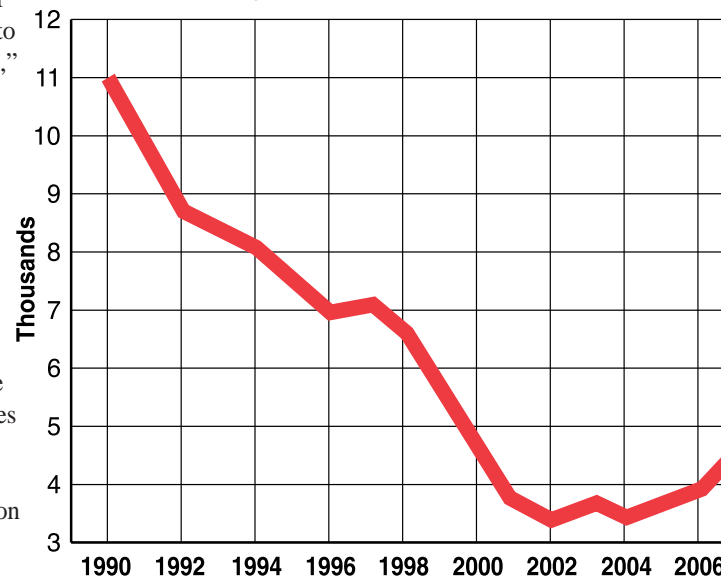
Pro-life legislation is another factor in the decline in abortions. Parrott has witnessed the success of the Parental Consent Law, which saved a life earlier this year when a 16-year-old girl was so adamant about an abortion she wouldn't even look at the ultrasound.

"Her mother, who saw the image of her grandchild, refused to sign for the abortion," said Parrott. "Now the girl is six months along and feels very differently about her unborn child."

The last pro-life law enacted in Kentucky was the 2004 Fetal Homicide Bill, which recognizes unborn life from conception and criminalizes assault on an unborn child.

According to Americans United for Life, Kentucky ranks 12th in the nation in pro-life legislation. But that's not good enough for life advocates who realize that Kentucky can do better. The last two years, bills giving women an opportunity to see an ultrasound of their unborn child while in the abortionist's office have died in the House. Pro-lifers hope that 2010 will be different.

## Kentucky Abortions 1990-2007



## Kentuckians generous via "CHOOSE LIFE" plates

*The Kentucky network of pregnancy care centers will share over \$37,000 in September because citizens are honoring their work.*

Have you ever seen a yellow Kentucky license plate while traveling through the Commonwealth? Written in a child's scrawl, the bright yellow plates depicting the faces of two children above the caption "Choose Life" stand out on Kentucky's highways. But the message conveyed by these plates – more profound than their eye-catching flare – speaks to one of the greatest issues of our day: the sanctity of human life. And in this third year of the plate's availability, Kentuckians have emphasized the issue's importance by contributing \$37,448.06.

In 2005, the Kentucky legislature created an option for specialty plates to give various organizations an opportunity to spread their message. The Family Foundation is the designated organization serving the state's network of pregnancy care centers (PCCs). In 2006, legislators made provision for a voluntary \$10 donation above the cost of the plate to be earmarked for local PCCs.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year \$5,850.78 was given. That number rose more than 400 percent in the 2007-2008 fiscal year when \$28,942.00 was received, reflecting the normal start-up jump. Numbers just released from the Kentucky Cabinet of Transportation indicate that the total for this fiscal year is \$37,448.06 – almost a 30 percent increase.

"We're so grateful for the revenue that the plates generate for the center," said Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center Director Sonja Ferrell. "But even more important is the message they send. . . . It's a reminder that we are not alone."

The initial cost of the specialty plate is \$44. Of that, a \$10 donation is earmarked for the pregnancy center that serves the driver's county. The renewal cost is \$31, again with \$10 going to the pregnancy care center. One hundred percent of the funds donated are distributed to the PCCs by The Family Foundation, which itself contributes the cost of the annual audit as well as the office and distribution expenses.

Choose Life plates are now available at all county clerk offices in Kentucky.

## **CHOOSE LIFE** **state license plates**

**Go ahead, get one for your car and drive with the CHOOSE LIFE encouragement all over town.**



**You'll be making a stand for life and for compassionate, life-saving intervention because pregnancy care centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.**

***THIS is Unbridled SPIRIT in Kentucky!***

# A profile of privilege

No sooner had the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee voted down a bill that would have allowed horse tracks to install video slot machines, than disappointed supporters in the horse industry and their allies in the media began charging that the Senate had done them wrong.

The committee vote, said angry supporters of the bill, was the unfair result of "deception," "unfairness," and "sleazy politics."

And how can you blame them for being angry?

Imagine being part of the state's "signature industry" and having to endure the indignity of sitting through a meeting in which your opponents are given the same amount of time to present their case as you are.

Imagine having to listen to someone point out that people did not intend to vote for slot machines when they approved the Lottery in 1988, and that slots supporters like KEEP and Gov. Steve Beshear promised that they were going to "Let the People Decide," but were now saying something completely different.

Imagine having to sit there and watch as your detractors point out that your source for your claims that there are 100,000 horse jobs actually says there are only half that many, or that your bill will



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

saddle the state with over a billion dollars in debt from school building earmarks that you won't be able to pay off, even after four years.

And how can any legislative body, in good conscience, allow people to say that Churchill Downs, which would have gotten the lion's share of the bailout

money, reported an increase in net profits of 81 percent last year?

Or that Churchill Downs (which is owned mostly by out-of-state investors) pays its CEO more than \$6,000,000?

After all, part of being the "signature industry" of a state is the right not to be disagreed with. Everyone knows that.

And not only that, but the Senate adamantly refused to give the bill special treatment. Unlike the House, where the committee that approved the bill only heard testimony from bill supporters during the session, and where votes were bought

**Imagine having to sit there and watching as your detractors point out that your source for your claims that there are 100,000 horse jobs actually says there are only half that many . . .**

## The Kentucky CITIZEN

**Executive Editor**  
Kent Ostrander

**Editor**  
Sarah Roof

**Contributing Editors**  
Martin Cothran

David Edmunds  
David Moreland

Don Pinson  
Richard Nelson

The Kentucky Citizen is published by The Family Foundation, a Kentucky nonprofit educational organization that works in the public policy arena on behalf of the family and the values that make families strong.

**The Family Foundation**  
P.O. Box 911111  
Lexington, KY 40591-1111  
859-255-5400  
e-mail: [tffky@mis.net](mailto:tffky@mis.net)  
Web site: [www.kentuckyfamily.org](http://www.kentuckyfamily.org)

The Family Foundation  
P. O. Box 911111  
Lexington, KY 40591-1111

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Lexington, KY  
Permit No. 555

using school building money, the Senate instead left the bill vulnerable by forcing it to stand on its own merits.

The House at least understands how the state's "signature industry" ought to be treated.

Yes, some legislators, like Johnny Bell of Glasgow, were angry about being threatened in the House Democratic caucus meeting on June 16 with the denial of school building money if they didn't vote for the slots bill. But that's because they don't understand that it's not vote buying if the votes being purchased are for the state's "signature industry."

And even if it were vote buying, it would be vote buying "for the children."

It's hard enough to have to say with a straight face that you want a "level playing field" without the Senate letting people point out that you oppose the consideration of an alternative Senate proposal that would have given tens of millions of dollars for horse purses without expanding gambling.

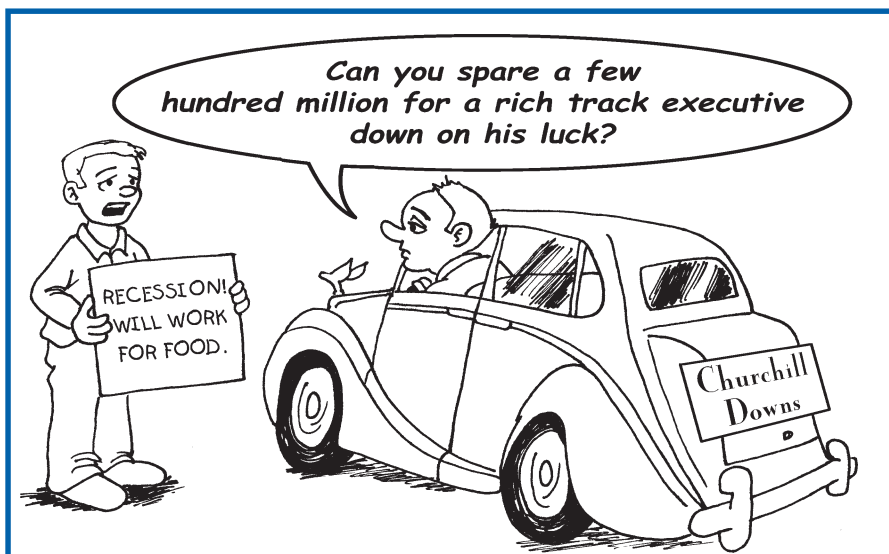
And what about that voice vote in the House on the Senate's proposal, huh? It was a great maneuver to not only avoid possible approval of it, but to hide members' votes. What prevented Senate A&R

Chairman from pushing it through using the same tactic? What, does the guy have scruples or something?

If the Senate weren't so unfair, it would have done what House leadership did last year when the same issue was being debated in committee and it took State Rep. Dottie Sims, who refused to commit to vote for the bill, off of the committee right before the final meeting so its passage would be assured.

See, that's the thing. Being the state's "signature industry" involves being able to do things that to some people seem underhanded, sleazy, and deceptive, but which you can get away with by just holding up your "signature industry" card and everyone just says, "Oh, okay."

But the chief benefit of being the "signature industry" is that you get to do these things yourself, and then accuse your opponents of doing them when they never actually did.



**"Saving" the tracks with slots**