Two key issues: Ultrasound & Casino Gambling

No pro-life bill has reached the House Floor in nine years, but House Bill 184 - The Ultrasound Bill - has a chance.

There is more hope in this Session than in any of the last nine for a pro-life bill to make it to the Floor of the House where it will most certainly pass. The likely candidate is House Bill 184 - The Ultrasound Bill, which already has 59 co-sponsors. That number of co-sponsors signed on is significant knowing that a bill only needs 51 votes to pass. The question now is more about whether House Leadership will allow it to come out of a committee so that it receives a fair hearing unlike the process in the previous nine Sessions.

HB 184 was introduced by a Democrat which is important in the House since Democrats are in the majority. Rep. Richard Henderson (D-Mt. Sterling) is leading the charge and he has secured 13 other Democrats to co-sponsor with him. Republicans have signed-on en masse in a rare expression of bipartisanship. The overwhelming number of co-sponsors is even more rare.

The fate of HB 184 is likely to be decided by a battle of will because a handful of very liberal, pro-choice Democrats have controlled what House Leadership has done in the last nine years. But, with Kentucky being a very pro-life state, the will of the people will prevail if, in fact, they let their wishes be known. This is exactly what happened in the 2004 Kentucky Marriage Protection Amendment and in last year’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act, where even the Governor’s veto was overridden.

Casinos have been pushed for 20 years, and 20 times the Assembly has said, “No.” Join with us to make it 21.

This is the last “long” session of Gov. Beshear’s two terms in office. “KY-WINS” is a new powerful and “monied” organization created by Churchill Downs to help ensure casinos come into Kentucky. And, legislators are weary of the fight against gambling. However, casino gambling will likely lose again if Kentucky citizens make the calls to their legislators to encourage them to stand strong.

One of the strongest setbacks for those pushing casinos came on Jan. 22 when those against casinos testified before the House Licensing and Occupations Committee. Representatives of The Family Foundation and Stop Predatory Gambling gave excellent perspective regarding the cost on society and the damage to families that casinos would bring, but the jarring analysis of Stan Cave, attorney for The Family Foundation, had the greatest impact. In short, he testified that it is unconstitutional to pass “enabling legislation” prior to the passage of the constitutional amendment that would allow such legislation. (See page 10 for more) This totally caught the casino advocates off-guard and created headlines across the Commonwealth.

Cave has been head-to-head with gambling advocates in the “Instant Racing” case and has learned how they operate to skirt the law. That experience paid off big dividends. Like with The Ultrasound Bill, only one will can prevail. Will it be yours?

Two bits of wisdom:

re: HB 184 The Ultrasound Bill - a window into the womb.
“If the absence of a heartbeat indicates death, what does the presence of a heartbeat in the womb at 18 days indicate?”

re: Casino Gambling - government ripping off its own.
“Poor men beg on the street corner.
Rich men beg in the halls of the Capitol.”

For ongoing perspective regarding issues and the 2014 General Assembly, send an email saying “Sign up” to kent@kentuckyfamily.org
The Foundation files *amicus* in marriage case

*The judicial “cards” seem to be stacked against marriage in the United States, but that is no excuse to lie down.*

On Jan. 16, Stan Cave, attorney for The Family Foundation, filed an *amicus* brief in support of Kentucky’s 2004 Marriage Protection Amendment in response to constitutional challenges in Federal Court in Louisville. As is occurring in states all over the nation, a group of gay and lesbian couples are claiming that they are being deprived of their alleged constitutional right to marry by Kentucky’s marriage laws. In so doing, the couples are asserting that all of Kentucky’s marriage laws, including Section 233A of the Kentucky Constitution, are unconstitutional.

Passed by Kentucky voters in 2004 by a 75 percent to 25 percent landslide, Section 233A provides that “Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized.”

In addition to the 75 to 25 margin, more citizens voted “Yes” to protect marriage in that ratification vote than had ever voted both “Yes” and “No” combined on any other Kentucky constitutional amendment.

In seeking to overturn Kentucky’s marriage laws, the gay and lesbian plaintiffs sued Gov. Steve Beshear and Attorney General Jack Conway arguing that Kentucky’s marriage laws serve no purpose other than “specifically to carry out a desire to harm a politically unpopular group.”

Beshear and Conway are charged by law to defend Kentucky’s laws and uphold Kentucky’s constitution. For reasons not entirely clear, Beshear and Conway responded to the claims in a way appearing to side with the gay and lesbian plaintiffs. One of the lawyers for the plaintiffs stated his belief that the Beshear administration’s response to the cases “tacitly acknowledges” that Kentucky’s marriage laws are unconstitutional.

Kentucky’s marriage laws are valid and constitutional. Under the law of the United States Supreme Court, in order to be adjudged valid, Kentucky only need to show a rational basis for the laws recognizing a marriage between one man and one woman. The Foundation’s *amicus* brief demonstrates, through 35 articles and studies, that children born into and raised by families of parents of different sexes are statistically more likely to thrive and do better than children of single-parent or same-sex parent households. Such findings satisfy the rational basis for Kentucky’s marriage laws.

That showing would have been easy enough for the Beshear administration to make, but it chose not to do so.

Within hours of The Family Foundation’s request to file its *amicus* brief, the Federal Judge ordered the *amicus* brief to be filed of record finding the “views of interested parties are always helpful.”

“Hopefully,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, “Stan’s efforts in the *amicus* brief will pick up where the Beshear administration and Conway left off and will assure that Kentucky’s marriage laws are upheld.”

For now, the case is pending.

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**Pro-Life video re-released**

*This is one of the best educational pieces ever done on the issue.*

The Family Foundation is re-releasing a 45-minute DVD that has helped thousands of Americans come to grips with the sanctity of life issue. Though originally produced almost 35 years ago, the documentary style hits timeless truths that are not even discussed today.

The video features recognized leaders and experts like the late Dr. Bernard Nathanson, Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Jack Willke as well as the late Congressmen Henry Hyde and Bill Donnelly.

Also on the video are several well-known, pro-choice spokespersons, including Dr. Edward C. Allred, famed abortionist from California.

“Though the outfits and the hairstyles are dated,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, “the message is timeless. Abortion realities haven’t changed that much in 40 years, with the exception of the morning after pill technologies.”

To receive a free copy of this video, call us at 859-255-5400 and promise that you will show it to others.

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**There are more ways to connect with us!**

"Like" us on Facebook:

*The Family Foundation*

Follow us on Twitter:

@KentuckyFamily

Sign up for our email list by sending your email address to kent@kentuckyfamily.org
The "Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013", better known as ENDA, is on its way to the House after a Democrat majority in the Senate passed Senate Bill 815 on Nov. 7, 2013. The bill’s chances of passing the House, however, appear unlikely.

Supporters of ENDA argue that it will stop employment discrimination against people of certain sexual orientation and/or gender identification in the workplace.

Why then does ENDA face opposition in the House? Opponents of ENDA regard it as a path to special privileges for a few while trampling religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution for others. It is unlikely House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will bring the bill up for a vote in the House for two reasons:

One reason is the law would likely increase litigation if it passed. “There is no doubt that this legislation will lead to endless, excessive litigation that will further bog down our courts at a high cost to employers, workers, and taxpayers,” said Boehner. “Congress would be well-served to focus on ways to reduce the amount of frivolous lawsuits, not compound the problem by adding new, obscure ways for trial lawyers to game the system.”

As the Affordable Care Act (also called “Obamacare”) demonstrated, massive pieces of legislation invariably lead to courtroom battles between mandates and Constitutional rights. One recent lawsuit involving the Hobby Lobby Corporation, challenged the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act because parts of the mandate clashed with the religious convictions of the owners.

Opponents of ENDA see the bill as a similarly massive intrusion on the hiring decisions of employers. If ENDA becomes law, they argue, many business owners will be forced to choose between spending thousands of dollars in litigation or forfeiting their right to run their business as they deem best for their success.

The second reason Speaker Boehner says he opposes this legislation is that it drastically weakens religious freedom in the workplace and puts activist judges in the position of imposing same-sex marriage and civil union laws on states. By using the federal ENDA law as the basis of their decisions – just as state Supreme Courts have done with state-level ENDA laws in the past – liberal judges may feel empowered under this legislation to single-handedly revise traditional state and federal marriage laws across the country.

Armed with a Massachusetts state ENDA law, justices on that state’s Supreme Court decided that there is “no rational basis for the denial of marriage to same-sex couples.”

In Vermont and New Jersey, courts ordered their respective state legislatures to pass same-sex marriage or civil union laws. Those decisions also cited state-level ENDA laws. No matter how proponents defend the purpose of ENDA, it is undeniable that state level ENDA laws have been, and will continue to be, used to force political and social agendas that go beyond employment discrimination.

Could a federally passed ENDA law be used to challenge the expressed views of Kentucky voters who ratified an amendment in 2004 by a 75 percent to 25 percent margin defining marriage as between one man and one woman? Based on the experiences of Massachusetts, Vermont and New Jersey, there is no reason to believe similar litigation could not happen in Kentucky as well.

No matter how proponents defend the purpose of ENDA, it is undeniable that state level ENDA laws have been, and will continue to be, used to force political and social agendas that go beyond employment discrimination.

Christians at the Capitol Day: Feb. 18

From 10 AM to 2 PM EST – An opportunity for “the salt” to be salty and “the light” to shine brightly.

Dr. Lee Watts, Chaplain to the Kentucky State Capitol and coordinator of this event, maintains:

“Those pushing the anti-God, anti-family, anti-life agenda are making their voices heard, so much more so should Christians. That’s the reason for ‘Christians at the Capitol Day’ at the Kentucky State Capitol Building. Each year Christian patriots throughout the Bluegrass come to Frankfort to learn about issues the media is not covering, pray with their legislators, and learn what they can do make a difference to call America back to God.”

(For more, go to http://www.godandcountryministry.com)

Other speakers include:

• Dr. David Gibbs, Christian Law Association, will be speaking about legal threats facing Christians, churches, Christian schools, homeschoolers, and more.

• Denny Peyman, Sheriff of Jackson County Ky, will be discussing threats to our 2nd Amendment rights and revealing other dangers to liberty the media is not mentioning.

• Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, will speak about issues currently in the 2014 Session that confront Kentucky families.

In addition, attendees will also get to meet candidates for the U.S. Senate and many of our state legislators. It’s an opportunity for the people to hear from them and for lawmakers to hear from the people.
The Kentucky Marriage Movement

Various regional events listed below

**Lexington, Jan. 31-Feb. 1**
*Love and Respect* video conference - The Eggerichs
First African Baptist Church
465 Price Road, Lexington, KY 40508

**Oak Grove, March 14-15**
The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Restoration House Family Worship Center
105 Walter Garrett Lane, Oak Grove, KY 42262

**Wheatley, April 11-12**
The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Dallasburg Baptist Church
4760 Kentucky 227, Wheatley, KY 40359

**Nicholasville, May 2-3**
Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Catalyst Christian Church
4000 Park Central Avenue, Nicholasville, KY 40356

**Chaplin, Feb. 7-8**
Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Chaplin Baptist Church
5585 Lawrenceburg Road, Chaplin, KY 40012

**Lexington, March 21-22**
Love and Lordship - Greg Williams
Porter Memorial Baptist Church
4300 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40515

**Lexington, April 25-26**
The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Broadway Christian Church
187 North Broadway, Lexington, KY 40507

**Paducah, May 9-10**
Love and Respect video conference - The Eggerichs
Twelve Oaks Baptist Church
2110 New Holt Road, Paducah, KY 42001

**Lexington, May 16-17**
The Art of Marriage video conference - FamilyLife
Lexington First Assembly of God
2780 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503

For more or to register, call **(859)255-5400** or go to **www.kentuckymarriage.org**

To host a marriage conference, just give us a call. **(859)255-5400**
Women will see the truth with HB 184

Will pro-life Democrats in the House prevail over other House Democrats who block ALL pro-life legislation?

House Bill 184, sponsored by Rep. Richard Henderson (D-Mt. Sterling), requires an abortionist to give women an opportunity to see an ultrasound of their baby prior to having an abortion as well as a face-to-face consult with the doctor during which questions about the procedure can be asked.

Advances in widely available ultrasound technology provide critical information for both the pregnant woman and her physician. The age, size, development and location of her baby and presence of a heartbeat can all be determined with a simple ultrasound. Doctors also use ultrasound to determine if there is an ectopic pregnancy or multiple babies, information critical to the well-being of the woman not to mention the well-being of her unborn child.

Opponents of the bill claim that this is an invasive procedure. “The reality is ultrasounds are quick, routine, simple and less invasive than either an abortion, a manual exam or for that matter the act that resulted in the woman being pregnant,” said Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation.

According to their website, EMW Women’s Surgical Center, the operator of the only two abortion clinics in Kentucky already does ultrasounds routinely for all abortions. Ultrasounds allow the baby’s gestational age and development to be easily and reliably assessed — information necessary to determine the type of abortion that can be done and how much the abortionist can charge. [Medical abortion in younger babies where the pregnant woman is given strong medications to cause the baby’s death and miscarriage versus an older baby where dilation and dismemberment are necessary.] HB 184 simply requires the abortionist to make the ultrasound available for the woman to see and to hear the baby’s heartbeat.

Informed Consent in healthcare requires a provider to make reasonable efforts to ensure their patient fully understands their medical condition and treatment options. As part of proper informed consent, medical providers typically show patients their x-rays, ultrasounds, CAT scans and other images. That is because people understand pictures better than words alone.

Opponents are concerned about the impact of those images. By simply allowing women to have an opportunity to see their ultrasound, abortion proponents fear women will choose life instead of abortion. Two separate studies show abortion declined after viewing an ultrasound by 30 and 60 percent respectively. In The Journal of Applied Business and Economics vol. 12(5) 2011, Marc Gius summarized studies on the impact of ultrasound laws and concluded “... ultrasound requirement laws reduce the odds of a woman having an abortion quite substantially.”

Joyce Ostrander, policy analyst for The Family Foundation, said, “If a picture is worth a thousand words, ultrasound imaging may be worth thousands of lives.”

Another component of HB 184 is “face-to-face consultation.” This is a clarification of the existing statute passed in 1998 requiring a consultation 24 hours prior to an abortion. However, in practice some women consult by calling in and listening to a tape-recorded message instead of meeting with a doctor. “This was not the intent of the bill. Lawmakers intended for the woman to meet face-to-face with the abortion physician 24 hours in advance so she would have ample time and information to make her decision,” said Sen. Katie Stine (R-Southgate), sponsor of the 1998 bill. HB 184 restores this requirement.

Opponents claim this bill will cause women to suffer financially and emotionally. Proponents claim the bill does the opposite, safeguarding the well-being of both the woman and her child.

One frame of an ultrasound of a 9-week unborn child

One man’s sad testimony

“...This summer I was working at the Americans United for Life booth at the National Conference of State Legislatures conference in Atlanta, GA when Kentucky State Representative Tom Burch (D-Louisville) approached the table.

During the cordial conversation, Rep. Burch told me that his role in the legislature was as Chairman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, the committee where all the pro-life bills are assigned. He went on to brag, “Yeah, I’m the guy who has killed every abortion bill in Kentucky.”

I was less shocked by his admission than by the glee with which he stated it. During his tenure, Chairman Burch has killed many common-sense abortion regulations. Unfortunately, Chairman Burch’s legacy is one of more women harmed and more lives lost.

No one man should have such control in any state. We live in a democracy where the people are supposed to decide. It is time for legislative leaders like Tom Burch to allow legislators to vote on these bills and prove once and for all which abortion regulations the people of Kentucky want in their state.”

Dan McConchie is Vice President of Government Affairs for Americans United for Life.
There are 100 members of the Kentucky House of Representatives and 54 of them are Democrats, making the Democrats the Majority Party of the House. (Republicans make up the Majority Party of the Senate.) Those 54 House Democrats decide who will be in the five “seats of power” in that Chamber: the Speaker of the House, the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Majority Floor Leader, the Majority Caucus leader and the Majority Whip.

Here’s where it gets interesting because it only takes 28 votes from the 54-member caucus to install someone into one of the Leadership positions.

Enter the “liberal Democrats.” Originally made up of eight very liberal female representatives, some of whom have moved on and some of whom have been replaced by very liberal men, this “caucus within the caucus” of ten representatives wields unusual power over the Chamber. Here is how: Imagine if you were running for a Leadership position, say for Speaker, and your opponent (from within your Party and your Caucus of 54) has already secured 26 votes while you had only 18 – all you would have to do is make a deal with the “liberal caucus” and they would vote as a 10-vote block and secure your needed 28 votes to become Speaker. They actually would control who is elected into Leadership!

What would it take to be awarded their 10-vote block? Sources close to House Leadership have revealed that it is simply a promise not to let “pro-family” legislation come to the floor where it would likely pass. This includes bills that would limit or shed light on abortion (like The Ultrasound Bill); bills that would frustrate the pro-homosexual agenda; and bills that would promote that old-fashioned concept of decency.

Clearly, there has been no pro-life legislation passing the House or even allowed to come to the House Floor in the last nine years, even though the Senate has passed such each year with bi-partisan, overwhelming votes (like 31 to 4 on 2013’s Ultrasound Bill) and sent it to the House. Yes, over the years there have been several Committee hearings, but always so carefully orchestrated (by none other than House Leadership) so the bill cannot get out of Committee in order to go to the House Floor.

But the problem is actually bigger. Since legislation must pass both Chambers to become law, then those “liberal ten” control not just the House, but the entire legislative process.

Yes, as said before this is all very legal . . . but it is also very, very wrong.

Why?

Because the will of the people is being thwarted by a handful of ideological elite. Kentuckians have not been experiencing democracy in the Commonwealth, or even a republic form of democracy – they have been experiencing a form of tyranny . . . and right now regarding The Ultrasound Bill we must wait to see if the rest of the caucus is content with this kind of “arrangement.”

Deceit is evident

A quick glance of 2008 and 2009 reveals the ongoing problem: House Leadership uses committees strategically to kill pro-life bills.

In 2008: After The Ultrasound Bill unanimously passed its Senate committee and then the full Senate by a wide bipartisan margin of 32-4, there was significant reaction when then-House Judiciary Chairperson Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) personally killed it by denying her committee members the opportunity to vote on it.

In 2009: With Stein now a Senator (gone from the House), when The Ultrasound Bill had passed the Senate with a similar 33-4 majority, Rep. Tom Burch (D-Louisville), chairman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, publicly promised to kill it if it was sent to his committee. Sure enough, House Leadership sent the bill to Burch’s committee – not to the Judiciary Committee where the new chairman was supportive. Proponents and opponents alike believe it would have passed the full House with more than 80 votes.
Is this what we have become?

Abortion advocates now say the unborn child is “a life worth sacrificing.”

Abortion advocate Mary Elizabeth Williams made a stunning admission. Writing in the January 2013 edition of Salon, an online news site, she addressed fellow pro-abortionists and challenged them to be intellectually honest that “the fetus is a human life.” Williams enlarged her confession by saying, “I never wavered for a moment in the belief that I was carrying a human life inside me.” Her article title, “So What If Abortion Ends Life?” is more of a cavalier proclamation than stunning admission.

But wait, the stunning is just getting started. She asserts that, “All life is not equal” and therefore the issue is not one of human life but of which human life matters. Wow! I thought we women were all about equality. Williams does not even mention the possibility that BOTH lives could be of equal value.

Of course no writing on this subject would be complete without pointing out the opposition. Williams does just that in her opening: “Of all the diabolically clever moves the anti-choice lobby has ever pulled, surely one of the greatest has been its consistent co-opting of the word ‘life.’ Life! Who wants to argue with that?”

Being a “diabolical anti-chooser” may I point out that this could in fact be the pot calling the kettle black. We could, after all just reverse the polarity of the sentence and say instead “of all the diabolically clever moves the anti-life lobby has ever pulled, surely one of the greatest has been its consistent co-opting of the word ‘CHOICE.’” Obvious to me is that it is not the woman’s choice, but the child’s choice that has been disregarded. In that sense you could say, I too, am pro-choice.

“And if you believe that it begins at birth, or somewhere in the second trimester, or when the kid goes to college, that’s a conversation I hope we can have, . . .”

Mary Elizabeth Williams

Williams also digresses to suggest that a later “conversation” about when her readers think life begins would be appropriate: “And if you believe that it begins at birth, or somewhere in the second trimester, or when the kid goes to college, that’s a conversation I hope we can have, one that would be respectful and empathetic and fearless.”

Certainly not a “fearless conversation” for “the kid going to college.”

There have been other periods in history when one group of people thought more of the “possibilities for them and their families” than the equal value of the lives of another group of people. The results of their “choices” were devastating. Today, we applaud those who stood for the defense of the defenseless then. Why are we now “diabolical”?

Since Williams sees this “sacrifice” as the only reasonable “choice,” it must be the obvious “choice” for all of Williams’ readers.

Make that all but at least one . . . This one.

Since 2004, ALL pro-life bills have died in a House Committee

The last pro-life bill was passed under Gov. Fletcher – The Fetal Homicide Bill. Other bills have been offered but ALL have been killed.

Whether House or Senate bill, all die in House:

2005 Session: HB 149-Prohibit Clone and Kill.
HB 386-Prohibit Destructive Embryonic Research.
Both died in House Judiciary Committee.

2006 Session: HB 489-Abortion Ban.
SB 125-Fully Informed Consent.
Passed Senate 34-3 (Feb. 28, 2006).
Both died in House Health & Welfare Committee.

Passed Senate 34-3 (Feb. 20, 2007).
Died in House Health & Welfare Committee.

2008 Session: SB 40-The Ultrasound Bill.
Passed Senate 32-4 (Feb. 7, 2008).
Died in House Judiciary Committee.
[Analysis: Former Rep. Kathy Stein had publicly promised, as Judiciary Committee Chairman, that she would hear the bill in her Committee, but then personally filibustered the meeting and did not allow a vote. The bill died there without a hearing.]

2009 Session: SB 79-The Ultrasound Bill.
Passed Senate 33-4 (March 3, 2009).
Died in House Health & Welfare Committee with a carefully orchestrated 8-8 tie vote, killing the bill.
[Analysis: This is the Session after former Rep. Kathy Stein had become a State Senator. Because the makeup of the House Judiciary Committee was no longer hostile to pro-life issues with her absence, House Leadership placed SB 79 in Rep. Tom Burch’s Health and Welfare Committee even though Burch had promised publicly that he would kill the bill. Leadership claimed that was the committee into which it had to be assigned.]

2010 Session: SB 38 -The Ultrasound Bill.
Passed Senate 32-4 (Jan. 25, 2010).
Died in House Health & Welfare Committee as in 2009. Another tie vote (7-7.) One legislator did not attend.

2011 Session: SB 9 -Ultrasound Bill/Face-to-Face Consultation.
Passed Senate 32-5 (Jan. 6, 2011).
HB 243-Ban on Abortions on Out-of-State Minors
HB 215-Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act – prohibited abortions after 20 weeks
All three died in House Health & Welfare Committee.

2012 Session: SB 102-Face-to-Face Consultation.
Passed Senate 32-5 (Feb. 8, 2012).
SB 103-Ultrasound Bill
HB 164-Fetal Heartbeat Bill – must advise woman if a heartbeat is present.
All three died in House Health & Welfare Committee.

2013 Session: SB 4-Face-to-Face Consultation.
Passed Senate 31-4 (Feb. 7, 2013).
SB 5-Ultrasound Bill
Passed Senate 31-4 (Feb. 8, 2013).
HB 132-Fetal Heartbeat – must advise woman if a heartbeat is present.
HB 251-Admitting Privileges – abortionist must have admitting privileges at a local hospital.
All five died in House Health & Welfare Committee.
Casinos raise their ugly head AGAIN!

They have knocked on the General Assembly’s door for 20 years now. It’s time they took “No” for an answer.

Like a bad dream that returns nightly to disrupt real rest, casino advocates are once again pushing casinos in the 2014 Session. Already several bills have been filed and several different casino strategies and have been floated. All have Kentucky citizens losing big.

In the past, advocates have argued that “Casinos will save the horse industry,” “Casinos will save the race tracks,” and “Casinos will help education” (Dubbed “Slots for Tots”).

This year they have recruited wealthy friends of Churchill Downs to build “KY-WINS” and have them claim that all the losses they plan to collect (they call those losses “new revenue”) is somehow good for Kentucky in every way.

However, what they have not recognized is that a nation’s wealth (or, in this case, a state’s wealth) is not measured by how much money the civic leaders control, but by how much the people of that nation (or state) have. Remember when Iraq fell before U.S. forces and there were news reports of warehouses full of bundled U.S. currency? No one was suggesting that Iraq was a wealthy nation; just a nation whose leader controlled most of the assets while the people were dirt poor.

So it is with Kentucky where leadership is seeking to manipulate a stream of cash that leaves the citizenry and booms the government. This is exacerbated by the fact that many politicians love to feel that they are doing good things for their constituents, which oftentimes translates into spending money for their district and drawing the attention of the people to their need to be re-elected.

Sadly, the gambling industry knows how to do a “double sell” to the consummate politician – they promise money they can spend as they govern, and then give money to their re-election campaign treasury.

Do you now understand why casino gambling is appealing to the average, unprincipled politician?

The problem is that the Kentucky citizens must become losers for this kind of plan to work.

Given those financial incentives and add to them the “cover” the Governor is giving to policymakers – “Let the people decide,” and it’s a fairly easy vote for a politician. Unfortunately, what the Governor is actually saying to the politician is “I’ll get you to put it on the ballot and then the casino industry’s money will decide the ratification of the amendment.”

Since they will literally make billions over time, they can “invest” $10 to $20 million in a little referendum campaign. (Remember, Kentucky elects a governor with about $7 million in campaign contributions.)

The “magic” that casinos will bring to Kentucky is making everyday citizens losers in the blink of an eye.

Casinos do NOT deliver on their promises

This story has happened over and over again – they promise everything, and then take control, delivering little or nothing.

“We’ll create good jobs.” No, most casino jobs are LOW paying.

Most casino jobs are minimum-wage in food and housing service or casino floor jobs partially dependent upon tips from people who are losing. To prevent cheating, the casinos abruptly change people to a different one of the three shifts, disrupting their lives in many ways, including child care. The $30,000-plus “AVERAGE” salaries frequently cited as the “good jobs” at casinos are inflated by the larger management salaries. Even if a worker did make $30,000 per year, that would amount to $14 per hour, which is below the average family income in Kentucky. Casino management jobs in Kentucky would be offered to Las Vegas underlings who know casinos and who want to move up. Kentuckians would get the grunt jobs.

“We already have addicted gamblers in Kentucky.” True. But casinos strategically placed in the state will INCREASE addiction.

We currently have 35,000 pathological gamblers and 70,000 problem (at risk) gamblers, according to the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling. These figures conservatively will double, possibly triple, with in-state casinos. Currently, 17.2 percent of Kentucky citizens live in poverty. This could easily increase to 25 percent with the advent of casinos. True leadership in the Governor’s Mansion would explain to citizens that gambling is NOT an avenue to prosperity. Unfortunately, Kentucky has not had that kind of leadership – “fatherly” leadership – in decades.

“KY-WINS proves that gambling is good for Kentucky.” No, KY-WINS proves wealthy people are friends with Churchill Downs. (But they are not stupid and betting at casinos.) The money casinos “raise” will come especially from the POOR and some from the middle class. The gamblers will not be the “mint julep” crowd of Derby fame who know how to invest to make money. Many of the KY-WINS crowd are bankers and investment counselors. How many of those advise their clients to gamble? Yet, they are now encouraging citizens to do so. These “slot barns” will be within easy driving distance according to the plan – or just a bus ride away. Casinos move money from the many to the few, they do not manufacture or produce anything, and they damage the economy further. They will remove revenue from all kinds of other businesses because, as they say, they will be “generating hundreds of millions of revenue.” These “revenues” – also called losses – will not be spent at other businesses.

“Casinos will keep money in the state.”

No, they move money OUT of the state.

Many of their purchases/expenditures are and will be made out of state. In addition, casino profits will leave. Churchill Downs, Kentucky’s casino company, is at least 96 percent owned by out-of-state interests. Turfway Park is 90 percent owned by Rock Ohio Ventures (an out-of-state casino corporation). Bluegrass Downs is wholly owned by Players International (another out-of-state casino corporation). And, the president of Kentucky Downs, a major stockholder, lives in Tennessee.

“Casinos don’t do any harm.” No? Ask the families of the addicted. Let’s look at Las Vegas: It’s the suicide capital of the nation; Sixty-seven pages of “Escort Services” and “Entertainers” in its phone directory and another 31 pages of massage parlors; the Nevada legislature (made up just like ours) legalized prostitution; it’s the divorce capital of America; and has 13 abortion clinics for its 600,000 people. (Kentucky has two clinics for 4.2 million people.)
Honest questions/honest observations:

More common-sense dialogue about the plan to have out-of-state casino companies raise money for the state.

- When the Governor said, “Let the people decide,” he was offering something that was not in the Kentucky Constitution.
  We are not a referendum state. We would have to first pass a constitutional amendment that authorizes “Let the people decide” referenda.

- Even more deviously, “Let the people decide” actually means “Let the casino gambling money decide.” (NOT the people).
  Because out-of-state casino companies that will buy or fund the Kentucky casinos will literally take billions out of state over time, it’s just a small “investment” to spend $10 to $20 million in a media campaign for the “Let the people decide referendum.” Just so you know . . . Governors in Kentucky are elected with about $7 million.

- If 1000 consultants were asked to offer their best suggestion for a new plan to move Kentucky forward, would ANY of them say: “Kentucky needs to create a casino ‘entertainment system’ that will have its citizens losing hundreds of millions each year”?
  If the role of government is to create an environment where its citizens can prosper, why is the government getting involved in promoting a gambling system that will encourage its citizens to lose their wealth? (And then rely on government for even more assistance?)

- Why does Churchill Downs not have the money it needs to boost its purses to a competitive level when it advertised just several years ago of investing $121 million to renovate its facilities?
  You would think that they would have better managed their assets. That makes this whole thing feel like a bailout for a mismanaged corporation that is being paid for with losses from everyday Kentucky citizens.

- And if Churchill Downs wants to help government so much by “raising revenue” through casinos, why did it deed over all of its property to the City of Louisville (for 25 years) and rent it back for $1 a year to avoid paying property taxes?
  Yes. That’s right. Churchill is not currently paying property taxes on the $121 million of improvements AND the previous value of their holdings. Every other business is paying property taxes. Why does Churchill Downs now need more of the citizens’ money?

- If Kentucky already struggles with addictions to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and even food (obesity is rampant), why are we even considering the introduction of casinos and slot machines?
  Slot machines are regarded as the crack cocaine of gambling. It looks like the drive for money is more important than the care for the people of Kentucky. The whole concept seems to be to place machines around the state that will extract funds from the players at a rapid rate and have a very small staff to keep the machines working.

- If government really needs to raise revenue, why would it ask a notoriously unscrupulous industry to raise it that will take for itself 60 to 75 percent of the winnings (losses of the people)?
  The state already has a tax system that keeps 100 percent of the revenue raised - it doesn’t bilk from its citizens money for someone else’s use. If the state’s “cut” of the gambling revenue is only 25 to 35 percent, it will not have the resources to assist its suffering citizens who have lost “the 100 percent.”

These guys should know!

“People will spend a tremendous amount of money in casinos, money that they would normally spend on buying a refrigerator or a new car. Local businesses will suffer because they lose customer dollars to the casinos.”

Donald Trump
(casino owner, interviewed by the Miami Herald)

“Get it straight . . . there is no reason on earth for any of you to expect for more than one second that just because there are people here [at casinos], they’re going to run into your store, or restaurant, or bar.”

Steve Wynn
(Vegas casino owner, speaking to small business leaders in Connecticut)

So should these professors!

“The money [local residents] wager comes from the local economy, and each dollar they spend . . . , they can no longer spend at a store or restaurant. This situation benefits the gambling operations, but works to the detriment of other kinds of business.”

Earl Grinols, Ph.D.
(Professor of Economics at Baylor University)

“Most of the people pouring money into their [casino] slot machines will be local residents. Instead of bringing new dollars to the local economy, gambling will siphon away consumer dollars from other local businesses.”

Robert Goodman, Ph.D.
(Lemelson Professor of Environmental Design and Planning at Hampshire College)
Testimony AGAINST the gambling bill

The Family Foundation’s attorney, Stan Cave, and executive director, Kent Ostrander, testified on Jan. 22. Excerpts below:

Stan Cave:

“...This year’s attempts to expand gambling is fraught with legal problems. To pass legislation expanding gambling while, at the same time, proposing to amend the constitution is illegal. Axiomatic is the fact that the General Assembly cannot constitutionally adopt legislation prior to amending the Constitution to allow it.

The gambling industry is insisting on a one sentence amendment to the Constitution to allow unlimited casino gambling. Important details concerning number, locations and appropriations of revenue will be in a separate bill voted on by the General Assembly only. A legal problem is created by the fact that supporters are admitting that gambling legislation is prohibited by the Constitution. If not, a constitutional amendment would be unnecessary.

In previous years, even the gambling proponents did not trust each other. So a proposed constitutional amendment to allow gambling expressly limited casinos to the tracks and mandated appropriations of revenues to the horse industry. Because only voters may ratify changes to the Constitution, important details were more certain that way.

By contrast, now those details are being left to the Legislature to change on a whim by a simple majority vote. At risk is Kentucky’s horse racing industry. If gambling proponents are successful, efforts to amend gambling legislation will begin as quickly as the Constitution is amended... in secret because the proposed gambling legislation restricts public information by broad exceptions to the open records law, by removal of penalties for illegal ex parte contact with decision makers and through a delegation of unspecified powers. Nothing could be worse.

The gambling industry is saying ‘trust us.’ I think not...”

Kent Ostrander:

“...According to Speaker Clark, casinos will gather $830 million with $286 million of that going to government. The question I raise today is not ‘How much?’, but ‘From where?’

All of that money comes from one place and one place only – Kentucky families. You see, corporations can’t gamble; businesses can’t gamble; nonprofits can’t gamble; churches can’t gamble; institutions can’t gamble – only Moms and Dads and a few single people, who will have family some day, can gamble. Fair taxation has always spread the tax burden across society through various kinds of taxation: sales tax, business tax, corporate tax, property taxes, income tax, etc., — it does not just target one group.

The bottom line is that the family is targeted in this scheme. Families in Kentucky must lose $830 million each year. AND that makes the $50 million casino license into a simple ‘hunting license’ each casino pays to have the right to hunt for the wealth of Kentucky families. They’ll pay government $50 million knowing that they can get to the saving accounts, the checking accounts, the rainy day funds, the retirement savings, the new car fund and the college fund of Kentucky families. And for that $50 million payment, Kentucky government agrees to pull back its constitutional protection for Kentucky families and allow the casinos to do it.

Government must protect its citizens – not join others who want to prey on them... I will re-state Speaker Clark’s numbers in a different, but honest way: Kentucky families must lose $830 million each year in order for Kentucky government to get its cut – only $286 million. That means $544 million will go to casinos. Kentucky families must lose three times what will come back to them...”

TFF to host historian J. Larry Hood for lecture series

The free, five-week lecture series focusing on how faith has affected American and Kentucky culture and politics begins Feb. 18.

“Central Kentucky is fortunate to have Dr. Hood offering his college-level lecture series entitled, ‘An Historian’s Understanding of how Faith has affected American and Kentucky Culture and Politics,’” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation.

Dr. Hood studied history and government at Centre College in Danville, received an M.B.A. from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH, and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in American History from the University of Kentucky.

He has published several essays and books on Kentucky and American history touching on Civil War politics and the creation of the Republican Party in Kentucky, Kentucky’s participation in the nation’s early twentieth century Progressive drive for political and social reform, and the Nixon administration’s establishment of affirmative action policies and regulations.


He has taught at Bellarmine University, Kentucky State University, and Lexington Community College and has done lectures for the Kentucky Humanities Council. He presently is an adjunct professor at the University of Kentucky where he has taught American history, Kentucky history, and American military history.

Lecture Series: “An Historian’s Understanding of how Faith has affected American and Kentucky Culture and Politics”

Series Begins:
6:30 PM Tuesday, Feb. 18

Community Room - First Southern National Bank
3060 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, KY 40503
God gave you more clout than you realize. USE IT!

Time to have an impact!

Your call to the Legislative Message Line should only take about one minute. Think about it – it takes less time and it is easier than ordering a pizza! Here are a few tips to making your responsible Christian citizenship as easy, but as effective, as possible:

Be Kind - You can be firm, but be polite. Your legislator wants to hear from you (he wants your vote next time), so don’t give him a reason to ignore your message.

Be Direct - You don’t have to have the bill number, particularly in the early stages of a Session when a bill number may not have been assigned, but state clearly what you want done. Your legislator will know what you want when he gets your message saying, “Pass The Ultrasound Bill” or “Vote against any expansion of gambling.”

Be Full of Faith - You are speaking to the best of your ability the concerns that the Lord would have, so be confident, even bold with your encouragement.

Do Not Be Religious - Christian-speak and Bible-speak are not known languages in Frankfort. Speak your message in the language of the listener – simply make common sense for Kentucky. The truth that you share will have its own impact if it is simply understood. The Spirit will amplify it in His good time.

Call / Act soon - The 2014 Session is a “long session.” Legislators will meet until March 31 and then break for a 10-day veto period. They then return for two days (April 14-15) to consider any of the any Governor vetoes. Call now . . . and call weekly on the bills you care about.

For More . . .

#1 Do you want to receive a free, weekly emailed UPDATE regarding legislation in the 2014 General Assembly? Or . . .

#2 Do you want more information regarding policy on legislation? Or . . .

#3 Do you want to join Kentucky’s “largest daily prayer gathering” called Let Us Pray, a one-minute, emailed daily prayer, Mon thru Fri.?

Contact us, please.
For items #1- #3 above & for information on other bills that affect the family, call or email us asap:

(859)255-5400
kent@kentuckyfamily.org

Salt and Light Matthew 5:13-15 (ESV)
13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. 14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.”
**Opinion: Common Core is just warmed-over KERA.**

“**Here they go again . . .”**

The year 2014 is an important year in the education history of Kentucky. In 1990, the Kentucky General Assembly passed the most sweeping education reform proposal ever enacted by a state—accompanied by the biggest tax increase in the state’s history. It was called the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 (KERA).

According to its supporters, KERA was supposed to solve Kentucky’s education problems and make its schools world class. With KERA in place, we would be a source of envy, with a national reputation for being innovative, bold and determined.

The year 2014 is important because this was the year that we were to know definitively whether KERA was a success or a failure. This year, every Kentucky school was supposed to be operating at a “proficient” level according to state accountability tests. That was the promise.

But as we stand here in 2014, not only is it the case that every school in Kentucky is not operating at a proficient level (in fact, the tests that were supposed to measure this were swept away several years ago), but KERA has been virtually forgotten. Not only are our schools still struggling, but they are apparently in need of reforming again.

We know KERA didn’t fix things because we are being told—at the very moment at which we were scheduled to be popping champagne corks at the education reform victory party—that they need fixing.

And the way we are now being told that we need to fix them is by implementing the Common Core standards. The Common Core is a set of standards which are supposed to guide classroom practice and inform a new set of tests that, we are told, will raise the standards and therefore the academic achievement of students here and around the nation. Kentucky began implementing them in 2011.

Technically speaking, the Common Core Initiative concerns English literature and math. More generically, the Common Core movement includes the Next Generation Science Standards and the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies. Kentucky was the first state in the nation to implement the English and math standards, making us, we have been told, national leaders in education reform.

But the philosophy behind Common Core is the same philosophy as that behind KERA—and behind every other failed education reform movement in this country since the early 20th century. Most people don’t have a long enough memory to know that this country goes through an education reform spasm about every 25 years. You can almost clock it: the progressive education movement of the 1920s, the “life-adjustment” movement of the 1940s and early 50s, the open classrooms and new math of the late 60s and early 70s—and the outcomes-based education movement of the early 1990s that produced KERA.

In every case, the rhetoric is the same: we play down rote memorization and instead emphasize creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking—and de-emphasize academic content knowledge. And every time we do this, we market it as “new.” This anti-academic education agenda is innovative, bold and determined.

Gov. Steve Beshear gave his State of the Commonwealth address in early January. Here is his description of the Common Core program and its implementation in Kentucky schools. We are implementing, he said, “New standards for learning that hold students and teachers to a higher bar. Since 2011, public school educators have been using the Kentucky version of Common Core academic standards in English language arts and mathematics which define the minimum that students should know at each grade level. Core content [Gov. Beshear misstated it] plays down rote memorization and instead gives students the skills that today’s workplace demands: creating and critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and communication.

Creativity? Collaboration? Critical thinking? Where have we heard this before? And why would we have heard it before since it’s brand new? What would have been really funny is if the Governor had also said we would be the source of national envy with a national reputation for being innovative, bold and determined.

But he didn’t say that in his State of the Commonwealth address. No. He said it in his budget address the very next week: “Decades ago, Kentucky’s education performance was cause for embarrassment. Today, we’re a source of envy, with a national reputation for being innovative, bold and determined.”

The Common Core is a warmed over version of KERA, and it won’t work any better than KERA did—or any of the failed programs of the past.