

# Gambling is bad public policy! – **Please CALL!**

The efforts to expand gambling are coming from two directions: The Legislature, and the Executive Branch (using the courts).

The gambling industry, using its wealth and influence, is attacking Kentucky on two fronts in order to expand its grip on the finances of Kentucky families. Both of these efforts are coming to a head in 2019, so Kentucky citizens should get involved now.

## Expansion through the Executive Branch

First, former Governor Steve Beshear set a gambling court case in motion in 2010. He had his Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, in league with the eight horse tracks, file suit in the Franklin Circuit Court in order to have it authorize “Historical Racing” slot machine-style gambling. The Family Foundation entered the case because, “It smelled a rat.”

The case has had all kinds of shenanigans take place over the last eight years and finally resulted in the judge deciding, last Oct. 24, that pari-mutuel wagering does not have to be “mutual.” (You can wager all by yourself on one of these machines and it is *still pari-mutuel* . . . and therefore legal.) What????!!

The Family Foundation’s attorney, Stan Cave, who figured out each of the numerous deceptive arguments made during the case, has appealed the decision straight to the Kentucky Supreme Court, because that’s where it will ultimately belong. If the Supreme Court takes the case, serious questions should be answered before the end of the year.

One of the startling discoveries made by The Family Foundation, through its Freedom of Information Act inquiries, was the fact that neither the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission nor its overseeing Cabinet (The Public Protection Cabinet) had any research documents or white papers on the impact that the six new “Historical Racing” casinos will have on Kentucky families. That’s *terribly strange* given it is the “**PUBLIC**



**PROTECTION** Cabinet” ultimately in charge of this gambling expansion effort. (How is the Cabinet protecting the public?)

It is also why Gov. Bevin needs to address what is going on within his own Administration, his own Executive Branch.

## Gambling expansion by the legislature

Secondly, pro-gambling legislators are working to expand gambling to out-of-state sports wagering companies as well as to in-state charitable gaming operations. At least these efforts are being done by the correct body – the General Assembly – which is the people’s branch of government, and the correct one for changes in public policy.

Fortunately, the expansion of gambling has been stopped for years by Kentucky citizens who rose to the occasion and squelched all the gambling money’s efforts with their voices, saying “No expansion of gambling.” This same tactic will work again this year if the people of Kentucky let their voices be heard.

## The Bottom Line

Reality is this: In truth, government shouldn’t have the right to give asset “hunting licenses” to a few elite “connected” people, authorizing them to rip-off others. Even if it did, why would it? Citizens need to call and let their voices be heard. (See below, left.)

## Gambling’s Four Policy Truths

**Truth #1: The Family is targeted.** Gambling doesn’t create new wealth; it only makes wealth change hands. Then where does all the money come from? Corporations can’t gamble, nor can businesses, institutions, schools, churches, nonprofits, nor civic groups – only Moms and Dads, and a few single people. In other words, all the **BILLIONS** of dollars that is gambled is just a shift of assets **FROM** the hands of the family **INTO** the hands of the gambling industry.

**Truth #2: Businesses will lose.** As families lose, businesses lose. Think about it – after all the losses, parents can’t afford to take the family out to eat, buy their children new school clothes, purchase a new refrigerator or finance a new home addition. Businesses suffer because money is **TAKEN OUT** of the economy. Remember, Las Vegas was built by **losers** – not winners.

**Truth #3: Government will be corrupted.** With millions going into the hands of the gambling industry, who becomes the greatest contributor and most influential group in the political process? The gambling industry will have the cash! Consider Nevada, home of Las Vegas: Their legislature was elected just like ours but has voted to legalize prostitution (because the gambling industry wanted it). And, there are 13 abortion clinics serving Las Vegas – population 640,000; Kentucky has one serving 4.3 million. Government changes!

**Truth #4: The Vulnerable will be destroyed.** Though families are targeted (see #1 above), finances aren’t the worst of the costs. Financial loss is just the beginning of a tragedy that all the family members experience. Some lives will be totally destroyed – marriage-damaging financial stress, alcoholism, drug use, child neglect and abuse, spouse neglect and abuse, divorce, depression, suicide, embezzlement, imprisonment and crime (both victim and perpetrator). And worse, children will lose their childhoods and be affected for a lifetime. Doctors have a policy regarding treatments: “First, do no harm.” Policy-makers in Frankfort would do well to apply this wisdom to the gambling question.

Therefore, . . . we must make two calls and speak to **BOTH** the Executive Branch **AND** the Legislative Branch.

**Call 1-502-564-2611**

Call & leave this message with the Governor’s receptionist:

**“Please, Gov. Bevin, act to stop the ‘Historic Racing’ casinos.”**

**Call 1-800-372-7181**

Call the toll-free Legislative Message Line and leave this message for “**all the legislators from my county** (State Senators and Representatives) **and copy this message to Senate President Stivers and House Speaker Osborne.**”

**“Please vote against any gambling bill!” And, “Hold a hearing on the new ‘Historic Racing’ casinos.”**