We must speak clearly NOW !!!

Good things happened in the first days of the 2021 Session, but there’s still much to pass and much to block.

VERY GOOD THINGS have already happened in the 2021 General Assembly that began on Tuesday, Jan 5. But there are still 22 more days that begin when legislators come back to Frankfort on Feb. 2. Understand that in those 22 days many more GOOD BILLS can pass, and in those same 22 days there will be some bad bills.

“Saddle up with us!”

First, “The GOOD” that has already passed

Like they did in 2017, the Republicans, controlling both Chambers of the Assembly, bolted forward and passed 7 bills in the first eight days of the 2021 Session. Contrary to the normal four-day start of a “short Session,” they chose to work on Saturday, Jan. 9 in order to secure the minimum five days required to pass a bill through both Chambers. It was a GOOD start!

Two key bills that passed in these first five days address the sanctity of life issue:

I. Senate Bill 9 (Sen. Whitney Westerfield R-Hopkinsville) - The Born Alive Infant Protection Act, vetoed by Gov. Beshear in 2020, protects infants who are born alive from being denied nourishment and reasonable medical care, even at an abortion clinic. And,

II. House Bill 2 (Rep. Joe Fischer R-Ft. Thomas) - Empowers the Attorney General to probe and engage errant abortion providers with civil and criminal penalties.

Second, there’s “MORE GOOD” that can pass

We want YOU to decide what you want to support, so we’ve listed a few bills on page 4 that impact the Family and the Church that have already been introduced, and on page 5, bills that focus on the Life issue. Based on the short description of the bill’s purpose, you can decide if you want to support or resist its passage. Just read, pray and call. It’s that simple. We recommend that you call at least three times on each bill over the next few weeks. (See pages 6 & 7)

But there’s “BAD” that needs to be stopped

Some have suggested that they created a good start because they knew their “BAD” stuff was coming. There will likely be a gambling bill focused strictly on legalizing the “Historical Horse Racing” slot machines that were proven to NOT be pari-mutuel as the proponents had alleged. After a 10-year court case, The Family Foundation and our attorney, Stan Cave, finally won the case unanimously (7-0) at the Kentucky Supreme Court on Sept. 4 last year. Now, lobbyists for the horse tracks are telling legislators that a “small tweak” of the law is all that needs to be done. (See pages 2-3)

Clearly, the entire 10-year court debacle was initiated by Gov. Steve Beshear in 2010, when he could not get the legislature to pass his repeatedly promised, gambling constitutional amendment. He simply had his Horse Racing Commission go to court and let the courts “legislate.” That hen has come home to roost.

There is one thing that is absolutely clear in the midst of as very busy season: With church attendance low due to Covid, Kentucky needs folks who will stand up and encourage their friends to join them in asking legislators to do the right thing!

Would you be one of them?
A legislative battle of the highest importance is coming to Frankfort and every Kentuckian should get involved. The culture of Kentucky will be changed and its future will be altered if the gambling industry sinks its teeth deeply into the state as it hopes to do. A decision will be made by the Kentucky General Assembly, most likely by March 30.

The Family Foundation won the 10-year “Historical Racing” court battle on Sept. 24 last year when the Kentucky Supreme Court sided with The Family Foundation in a 7-0 decision that stated clearly that the machines were NOT pari-mutuel as the advocates had claimed.

This was a bad decision. It was asking the court system to make policy (expand gambling) when the policy-making body – the General Assembly – had chosen NOT to. The best example of this on a national scale is the 1973 Roe v Wade abortion decision, which has resulted in nothing but problems.

The tracks decided NOT to wait on the court system to render its ruling, but instead began building gambling venues and installing and operating the slot-like machines across the state. Presently there are some 3,000 machines installed and operating with another 4,500 authorized.

When the Racing Commission and the tracks lost in September, they made two bad decisions and did not act on the third, correct decision: 1) They decided to appeal the case to the same Kentucky Supreme Court where they had just lost 7-0; and 2) they began heavy lobbying of legislators asking them to pass a “quick fix” in the 2021 General Assembly.

What they SHOULD have done is create a plan to return the $800 million dollars that they had unlawfully and illegally taken from Kentucky citizens since 2011. But that is not what the gambling industry does – it just “dreams” about other people’s money.

Has ANYONE heard of returning the money being considered?

For more on the ten-year court case go to: www.thegamblingscam.com

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**Four Key Policy Problems**

**#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.

**#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.

**#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, elected just like ours, has voted to legalize prostitution (because the gambling industry wanted it). And, there are 13 abortion clinics serving Las Vegas – population 640,000 (the size of Louisville); Kentucky now has two serving 4.3 million. Government will change!

**#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 same wisdom.
Sadly, they’re using horses to legalize slots & “casinos”

Consider these points that question the “Historical Horse Racing” slots.

1. **They’re given licenses to rip-off their neighbor.**

Over the years, we’ve had all kinds of reasons to expand gambling – to bring casinos into the state. Early on (in the 1990s) it was to raise money for the government. Then, it was “to save the horse industry” . . . Then, “for pensions” . . . Now it is “to save jobs in Kentucky.”

What do those reasons have to do with establishing gambling? What do these arguments have to do with giving a handful of wealthy businessmen a LICENSE to rip-off other Kentuckians?

The bottom line? Gambling advocates cannot argue FOR gambling on its own merits. (Only “How good it will be for this or that.”) Over the last 9 years (during the court case) they have taken over $800 million from other Kentucky citizens . . . and NO ONE has been helped. (Just their bank accounts.)

Can Kentucky citizens really afford $800 million in losses?

2. **They’ll say whatever it takes . . .**

In the ten-year court case, advocates for the so-called “Historical Horse Racing” slot machines argued in court that these devices were all about pari-mutuel wagering on horse races.

BUT . . . when they marketed their machines to others in hopes of finding more patrons, they called it “Vegas-style gaming.” (Slot machines.)

This begs the question: “Just when are they telling the truth?

3. **“Profits for me, but none for thee.”**

Most people do not realize that Churchill Downs is a casino company – it owns 15 casinos (or racinos) in 10 different states. And, like all casino companies, it does not produce a product, it just pits wagers against one another OR against the “House” or the “House’s devices.”

That’s exactly what is happening in Kentucky – currently the state has 7,500 devices designed to extract money from the patron authorized.

And, Churchill Downs as a company has done “well” : in July of 2010, when the 10-year court case began, the price of a share of Churchill Downs stock was $10.95. At the end of last year (2020), it was valued at $198.62 per share.

Sadly, almost all of those profits leave the state since it is a publicly traded company. The largest share-holder is from Illinois.

4. **“The truth, the whole truth, and . . .”**

Beside their pervasive deceptiveness throughout the 10-year court case, the gambling industry ALWAYS has an angle . . . and that angle is ALWAYS for itself. It is NEVER for the well-being of others.

Since the Sept. 24 unanimous 7-0 decision by the Kentucky Supreme Court, slot machine advocates have been pressing legislators to do a “fix” in Kentucky law so the machines can continue. The ONLY way they could do that is by Constitutional Amendment . . .

and gambling lobbyists don’t want that because it requires more votes!

So instead, they are telling the legislators that there is no need for a Constitutional Amendment. But if a simple statute is passed, it will start another lawsuit that they will protract for years while they continue to run their machines and rip-off their neighbors.

5. **“Eight is enough.”**

When the ten-year court case went up to the Kentucky Supreme Court the first time in 2014, the Court remanded it back for retrial because discovery by The Family Foundation had been barred. But just as important, the Court said eight times in eight different places in its opinion that the case was not over, but rather discovery should be taken to see if the machines indeed were pari-mutuel as the law requires.

Unfortunately, the race tracks gambled -- they went ahead, secured property, built structures and began installing and operating the machines in question.

Now they are coming, crying back to legislators, “Look at all we have invested.”

But they have never shown compassion for those who have come to their facilities and lost “their shirts.” Apparently, “What goes around comes around” -- even for gambling establishments.

There are plenty more of these insights that swing the balance scale AGAINST casino-style gambling. The fact of the matter is this: turning our heads and allowing the gambling industry to run roughshod over the law now will result in a world of hurt for many Kentucky families and will change our culture forever.

4. **“The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”**

In her book, Addiction By Design, Natasha Dow Schüll, associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), describes how machine gambling has been refined in such a way that slot machines have become highly effective instruments of moving patrons into the “machine zone.” The “machine zone” is a trance-like state where daily worries, social demands and even bodily awareness fade away. Once in the zone, gambling addicts play not to win, but to simply keep playing. They end up seeking to lose themselves while the gambling industry simply seeks profit. Slot machines give the illusion that the patrons can “win,” but reality dictates, “The House always wins.”
Bills below affect the Family, its Values and the Church in general across Kentucky

Let YOUR voice and the voices of your friends make the difference on each of these bills.

The Medical Ethics and Diversity Act -

**Senate Bill 83  (also called “The MED Act”)**

By Sen. Stephen Meredith: This bill provides religious liberty / conscience protections for medical professionals who are being confronted with an increasing number of controversial medical practices such as abortion, cloning, harvesting fetal organs, assisted suicide, and surgical and hormonal treatments to attempt to change children’s biological sex. There are significant moral and ethical disagreements in the medical community. This bill would protect a medical professional from being forced to participate in treatments that are against their conscience. All personnel would still be required to provide emergency services for all people, but they could simply step away from controversial elective procedures.  

*Prospect of Passage:* This bill passed its Senate Committee last year, but got “lost” in the outbreak of Covid and the resulting Frankfort “shutdown.”

Parents’ Rights Protection Act -

**Senate Bill 97**

By Sen. Stephen West: This bill would affirm that the rights of parents are “fundamental rights.” The Government would need to prove it had a compelling interest (such as protecting a child from abuse) before it infringes on the rights of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing of their children. Historically, parents’ rights have been considered fundamental, but recently there has been a rising number of cases where the courts allow others to make decisions for children without parental knowledge and parental consent. This bill would protect families by not allowing the government to unnecessarily undermine parental rights.  

*Prospect of Passage:* Most agree that parental rights are basic, but some want government workers and professionals to preside over families.

“Save Women’s Sports” Act -

**Senate Bill 106  (also called “Fair Play” Act)**

By Sen. Robby Mills: This bill would prohibit biological males from competing as girls in girl’s athletic events at Kentucky’s public schools and colleges. Recently there has been an increase in the number of males who dress like and think they are the opposite biological sex. Women’s sports, locker rooms and even educational opportunities are beginning to be won by these biological males. For example, since 2017 two high school males in Connecticut have competed as women and have taken 15 Connecticut high school track championships away from nine different girls. Previously they ran as males and never won. Track is not the only sport impacted. As a result, girls are losing opportunities to advance to the next levels of competition where they can compete for scholarships and educational and career opportunities.  

*Prospect of Passage:* Polling suggests that SB 106 is well-supported because of basic fairness, however, some in the LGBT community oppose it.

“The Church is Essential” Act -

**House Bill 218**

By Rep Shane Baker: Given the ups and downs of this past “Covid Year,” this bill ensures that churches and other religious organizations receive equal treatment during a public crisis, allowing them to remain open on the same terms as other businesses and services that are deemed essential. It further protects religious organizations against government discrimination based upon the organizations’ religious identity or activities.”  

*Prospect of Passage:* Given the numerous mistakes made during this year’s Covid crisis and the many churches in Kentucky, this bill could pass.
“Life Issue” bills: Again, let YOUR voice be heard on each.

The Human Life Amendment -

**House Bill 91** *(Also called “YES for Life”)*

**By Rep. Joe Fischer:** This constitutional amendment affirms that the Kentucky Constitution does not guarantee the right to abortion or to have abortion paid for with taxpayer dollars. **HISTORY:** In a 2018 lawsuit brought by Planned Parenthood, the Iowa Supreme Court struck down the Iowa law being challenged and said the Iowa Constitution guarantees the right to abortion. Since then, Planned Parenthood has begun to challenge abortion laws in other states. As a result, two states (Tennessee and West Virginia) have passed similar measures like HB 91.

Amending Judicial Bypass for Abortion Minors -

**House Bill 96**

**By Rep. Melinda Prunty:** This bill corrects the loophole that allows abortions to be easily and routinely authorized for minors without parental knowledge or consent. There has been a stream of judicially authorized abortions for minors that has developed over the years, thereby violating their parent’s right to be involved in that significant decision process.

Requiring the Auditor to Audit Abortion Reporting -

**House Bill 103**

**By Rep. Joe Fischer:** This bill expands the authority of the State Auditor relating to abortion reporting requirements. It requires the Department of Vital Statistics report to include verification of compliance with the certification requirement of Kentucky law and it specifies that the Auditor of Public Accounts shall function as a health oversight agency for the purpose of performing an audit.

“Safe Haven Baby Boxes” Act -

**House Bill 155**

**By Rep. Nancy Tate:** In 2016, the “Safe Haven Baby Box” program was added to Indiana Law. Since then, no infants have been reported abandoned, rather, only safely surrendered through the Baby Box program. The program is now available in four states. Boxes are installed in participating firestations or hospitals, which are manned 24/7. Funds for the hospital-grade containers are raised privately.

Prohibiting ALL Public Funds for Abortion -

**House Bill 216**

**By Rep. Lynn Bechler:** This bill provides that no public agency funds shall be paid to any entity, organization, or individual that performs, induces, refers for, or counsels in favor of abortion(s).

The Omnibus Pro-Life Act - Bill being drafted - number not yet assigned.

**House Bill ???** *(Use title and bill sponsor when calling.)*

**To be filed by Rep. Nancy Tate:** This bill is slated to have a number of components, but is currently in the draft phase. It is planned to be an important bill that will address multiple areas in Kentucky’s abortion law that either are deficient or need to be updated. It MAY also incorporate some of the same issues as several other bills listed above. If it does merge some of the other ideas into one bill, it will streamline the legislative process for pro-life bills in this 2021 Session.
We are here to help **YOU** make **YOUR** calls!

Please understand that your legislator knows that **YOU** sent him (or her) to Frankfort. They WANT to hear from you because they WANT your vote in the next election. Speak God’s perspective to them and they will be encouraged and strengthened!

The Family Foundation’s desire is to get God’s wisdom involved in Frankfort so that our Commonwealth can do great things. The best way we can help is to have an “inside Frankfort” strategy and an “outside Frankfort” strategy. Basically, we need to do two things:

1) Work inside Frankfort by offering Godly counsel to legislators as various bills emerge and as various debates develop. That is our “inside Frankfort” strategy — serving legislators face-to-face with the truth and the grace we all know need to be applied for good solutions to Kentucky’s problems. However . . .

**Because of Covid, WE CAN’T DO THIS!!! Therefore . . .**

2) **THIS** is most important . . . Work outside Frankfort by getting the people of God who have been trained in right and wrong over the years by their pastor to weigh-in on the various pieces of legislation. There is nothing more pleasing than to go into the office of a legislator who has been encouraged by many people to vote for House Bill (XX) or Senate Bill (XX). When that happens, the legislator is of the frame of mind to look deeply into the content of the bill and roll up his/her sleeves “to get that bill passed”! That is our “outside strategy” and **YOU** are key! **YOU** are our hope! **YOU** are Kentucky’s hope!

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**Time to Leave a Message!**

**Legislative Message Line:** 1-800-372-7181

A phone call is easy! Speak to the phone receptionist (who will record your name and address for future calls) and just say:

“Please give this message to each legislator in (   Your    ) County.” Then say, “And please copy my message to Sen. Robert Stivers & Sen. David Givens and Rep. David Meade & Rep. Steve Rudy.” (These are key leaders)

The receptionist will know legislators in your county. Here’s a sample message:

“Please vote **FOR** Senate Bill 106 - the ‘Save Women’s Sports Act’ and vote **AGAINST** the slot gambling bill.”

PLEASE, over the next few weeks **call three times on each bill** listed. You can do 2 to 3 bills on each call and you can mix and match bills on each call. A series of 3 boxes are set beside each bill so you can keep track. BOTH spouses should call and ask your friends to call – it’s about “salt and light.”

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**Here are the “How To’s”**

**It’s simple! You don’t have to be an expert to make a difference . . . just a citizen.**

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!** Remember, you are only leaving your message with a receptionist – no pressure.

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/she wants your vote next time), so don’t give him a reason to ignore your message.

**Be Direct** - You do not have to have a bill number; just state clearly what you want. Your legislator will know what you want when he gets your message, like, “Pass The Omnibus Pro-life Act” - To be offered by Rep. Melinda Prunty.” (But, bill numbers ARE helpful when you have them!)

**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. Just pray and call.

**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.

**Call / Act soon** - Legislators have “plunged” into the 2021 Session so things will move rapidly until the main part of the Session is over on March 16. Every few days, make one call and list two or three bills with your perspective . . . then a few days later, make another call with two or three other bills. Continue this process until you leave three messages on every bill.

**Have your spouse call** - Double your impact by simply having your spouse call.

**Encourage Others to Call** - You can double, triple or even multiply your impact ten-fold by getting others to make the calls – your Sunday School class, Bible study, etc.
The 2021 Session has begun . . . Here’s what we need to know:

How A Bill Becomes Law

A law begins its journey toward enactment when it is introduced as a bill. It can be introduced in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, but it must be approved by both in order to be sent to the Governor for his signature, at which point it becomes law.

Once a bill is introduced in one of the Chambers (either the House or the Senate), the Committee on Committees (both the House and the Senate have one) decide to which committee the bill will be sent. This is an important decision, because it is harder to get a bill through some committees than others.

The Speaker of the House is the chairman of the House Committee on Committees, and the Senate President is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Committees.

When the bill has been received by a committee, the chairman of the committee decides whether the bill should be heard by the committee. If the chairman decides that the bill should not be heard, it simply dies. If it is heard, it is either approved or defeated. If it is approved, it goes to the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee of each Chamber is also a powerful committee. The Rules Committee decides when and whether a bill gets to the Chamber Floor for a vote. It can either send the bill directly to the Floor or back to another committee for further review.

When a bill finally reaches the Floor, before it can be voted on, it must be read (announced) three times. The Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate can refuse to call the bill for a vote, in which case it will eventually die. If the bill is voted on and passed, it goes on to the other Chamber and starts the same entire process for approval there.

If one Chamber passes a bill and the other Chamber changes it in any way, the bill must go back to the Chamber in which it originated so that change can be approved. This is called “concurrency.”

Once it passes in both Chambers, it goes to the Governor for his signature.

When the Governor receives the bill on his desk, he can do one of three things: he can sign it, veto it, or simply not act on it. If he signs it, it becomes law. If he does not sign it, it still becomes law. Not signing a bill, but letting it go into effect is a way for the Governor to express disapproval without actually stopping the bill.

If the Governor vetoes the bill, the bill can only become law if the General Assembly overrides the veto. A veto can be overridden only by a constitutional majority of both Chambers. In the House, a constitutional majority is 51 votes (one more than half of 100). In the Senate, it is 20 votes (one more than half of 38). If the veto is overridden in this way, the bill becomes law. If it is not overridden, it does not become law.

Calendar
for the 2021 General Assembly

| January 5-13 | Session Begins (organizational first days then return on Feb. 2) |
| February 2  | Session Re-Convenes |
| February 12 | Last day for new Senate bills |
| February 15 | Presidents’ Day (holiday) |
| February 16 | Last day for new House bills |
| March 15 -16 | Concurrence |
| March 17-27 | Governor’s veto period (10 days) |
| March 30   | Veto override day and Sine Die |
By calling, you are “prophesying” to government

You don’t have to be perfect to make a difference. And, you don’t need to be hesitant. When you consider Biblical heroes, many of them who impacted “policy” were just people who stepped forward at the right time, enabling God’s will and delivering their people.

Joseph faithfully served a pagan pharaoh in a “policy role” and ultimately was a “savior” to Jacob (Israel) and his clan. Just one man made a huge influence.

Daniel faithfully served a pagan government – several different rulers – and was honored by all for his godly wisdom and demeanor. Again, just one man.

Esther stepped forward at the right moment in history to deliver her people from an evil policy decree. Just one woman . . . and her life was not focused on “policy.”

David served God and Israel as the king “after God’s own heart,” yet it was also very clear that he was not a perfect man.

Like David, Solomon served God as the wisest man, yet he too was not without personal failures.

Consider Paul’s explicit call. He was called to several different “people groups” by Jesus Himself: Acts 9:14-15 “But the Lord said to him (Ananias), ‘Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel . . .’” ONE of those “people groups” was “KINGS” – the politicians of the day.

No one should be left out from hearing God’s truth. ALL persons, perhaps especially governmental leaders, should have someone bear Jesus’ Name and that Name means.

You have been “planted” in Kentucky for such a time as this. Kentucky can be a leader for the nation because the people of faith in the Commonwealth speak out.

For More . . .

#1 If you want to receive free, emailed UPDATES regarding legislation in this publication to share with others . . .

#2 If you want bulletin inserts to activate your church . . .

#3 If you want to receive our (free) bimonthly CITIZEN newsletter . . . OR

#4 If you want to help get this publication out more broadly . . .

You can contact us at:
(859)255-5400 kent@kentuckyfamily.org

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