

# CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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## An assessment: The 2009 Assembly yields mixed results for the family

*Several “defensive kills” of bad legislation and one significant “offensive victory” sweeten the taste of an otherwise bland session.*

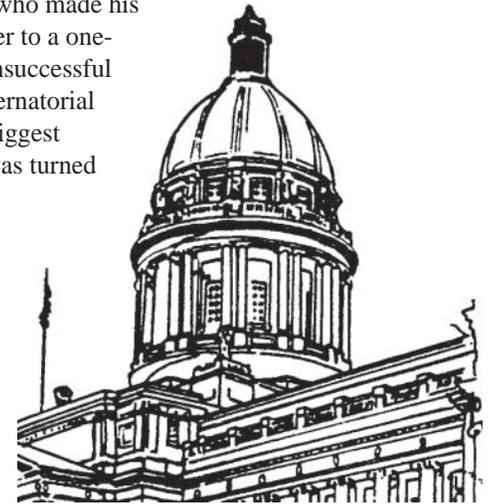
The 2009 Kentucky General Assembly Session was marked by a more cooperative attitude between the House and the Senate. Unlike last year, when the House and Senate were at each other’s throats, the two bodies stood mostly shoulder to shoulder this session, with Senate President David Williams (R-Burkesville) and House Speaker Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg) working together on several successful initiatives.

Stumbo was probably the biggest reason for the change in legislative tone. Stumbo, who narrowly defeated Rep. Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green) for the Speaker’s position

in January, is a powerful veteran legislator who made his way from being House Majority Floor leader to a one-term stint as state Attorney General to an unsuccessful campaign for Lt. Governor yoked with gubernatorial candidate Bruce Lunsford. But Stumbo’s biggest legislative initiative, expanded gambling, was turned back early in the legislative process.

From a pro-family perspective, a true assessment of any session of a General Assembly involves not only that legislation that is successfully passed and signed into law, but also that which is proposed and killed. A “defensive kill” is the term used by advocates to describe a bad piece of legislation that fails. An “offensive victory” is a good piece of legislation that successfully navigates the process and becomes law, while an “offensive loss,” obviously, is good legislation that fails. This session had mixed results from a pro-family point of view: three defensive kills, one offensive victory and four offensive losses.

*Continued on pages 4 thru 6*



### Defensive “Kill” *(Failure of bad bill)*

- Killed!** **HB 158 - Slots at the Tracks** - Would allow horse race tracks to expand gambling with electronic slots without citizen approval.
- Killed!** **HB 69 - Mandatory HPV Vaccine for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls** - Would require grade school girls to have vaccine for sexually transmitted disease.
- Killed!** **HB 28 - “Adulterer’s Rights” Act** - Would allow sexual interloper of an intact marriage to claim paternity rights and have access to child.

### Offensive Victory *(Passage of good bill)*

- Passed!** **SB 1 - The CATS Test** - Changes CATS test to family-friendly evaluation, not just school evaluation AND it saves millions.

### Offensive Loss *(Failure of good bill)*

- Lost** **SB 79 - The Ultrasound Bill** - Requires abortionist to offer viewing of ultrasound for patient and face-to-face consultation.
- Lost** **SB 42 - Public Decency Act** - Bars total nudity in sex businesses and prevents patrons from groping/touching performers.
- Lost** **SB 68 - Child Welfare Adoption Act** - Requires that child not be placed in the home of cohabiting, “live-in lovers.”
- Lost** **SB 186 - Special Needs Ed** - Allows parents access to special needs funds when public school cannot meet the child’s needs.

## Marriage: It’s Worth Saving!

A seminar designed to equip the local church for a revitalized ministry to strengthen and heal marriages. Three regional seminars are set to serve pastors, elders and deacons, and leading laypersons.

**Join Us!**

*See pages 2 & 3*

# “Marriage: It’s Worth Saving!” seminars set

Pastors, ministry heads and active volunteers encouraged to participate in order to create sustained momentum for marriage.

The Family Foundation is pleased to host three seminars – one each in western, central and eastern Kentucky – as part of the kick-off for the Kentucky Marriage Movement. The *Marriage: It’s Worth Saving!* seminars will take place on April 21 in Madisonville, April 23 in Lexington and April 30 in Allen (Prestonsburg). The one-day seminar is geared towards pastors and church leaders, marriage ministry personnel, community leaders and others that

**“Isn’t this supposed to be one of the key roles of the church — to strengthen families and marriages with God’s Word and God’s ways?”**

– Ron Ball, seminar speaker

have a desire to see the marriages in their congregations and communities enriched and strengthened.

The featured speaker is Ron Ball (*See story to right*) who expressed his anticipation for the seminars. “Isn’t this supposed to be one of the key roles of the church — to strengthen families and marriages with God’s Word and God’s ways?”

Topics discussed will include becoming involved in a “marriage movement” in the local church and community, the state of marriage in Kentucky, insights for marriage ministries, important cultural trends and how to give couples a “Honeymoon for Life.”

“Our goal with these seminars is not only to encourage couples in their own marriage but also to plant seeds on what they can do to encourage others in their own churches or communities,” said Sarah Roof, coordinator of the Kentucky Marriage Movement effort. “Kentucky is in desperate need of a ‘marriage movement,’ so that more couples are choosing to get and stay married.”

Roof points out that the divorce rate within the church is a mirror image of that outside the church. The seminars will offer some practical solutions to church leaders so that they may lead in such a way to strengthen marriage and make a lasting impact on marital relationships in their church and local community.

The Kentucky Marriage Movement was launched in the summer of 2008 and was unveiled with the pre-release screenings of the pro-marriage film *Fireproof*. The website ([www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org)) serves as a touchstone to help unite church and community leaders in the effort to proactively build strong marriages and healthy families.

The Family Foundation hosted 10 screenings of *Fireproof* across the state for pastors and their wives prior to the movie’s release on Sept. 26. The movie, now available on DVD, was highly successful in Kentucky and throughout the nation. By the time the film ended its theatrical run, more than 4 million people had seen it, and

it was the No. 1 independent film of 2008. But more important than the financial success are the numerous

“marriage success” stories that occurred as a result of a husband or wife being touched by the movie.

## Ron Ball slated as key speaker

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

Ron Ball will be the featured speaker for the Kentucky Marriage Movement’s *Marriage: It’s Worth Saving!* seminars. Ball, a Prestonsburg native and former assistant to Pastor Charles Stanley of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, has presented live business training seminars to over 7 million people in 17 countries.

In addition, Ball and his wife, Amy, have been conducting “Honeymoon for Life©” weekend marriage conferences for 10 years in which over 10,000 couples have learned new principles on enriching their marriages.

“I am very optimistic with the potential of the church in Kentucky to change attitudes toward marriage throughout the Commonwealth,” said Ball. “In particular, I truly believe that, with some basic

shifts in focus, any local church can become known as ‘The Place’ to go to enrich a marriage or heal a marriage that is in trouble.”

Ball 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.



Ron Ball

# Join Us!

### TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009

Grapevine Baptist Church  
85 Sandcut Road  
Madisonville, KY 42431  
9:30-3:00 (Central)



### THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

Porter Memorial Baptist Church  
4300 Nicholasville Road  
Lexington, KY 40515  
9:30-3:00 (Eastern)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

Allen Baptist Church  
354 US Highway 23 N  
Allen, KY 41601  
9:30-3:00 (Eastern)

## – REGISTRATION FORM –

### Check which seminar you would like to attend:

- April 21 - Madisonville
- April 23 - Lexington
- April 30 - Allen/Prestonsburg
  
- Individual: \$30
- Husband & Wife: \$35

All times are 9:30-3:00 local.  
Lunch will be provided.

(Group discounts are available for churches sending 10 or more. Call for details.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Church/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with payment to:

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

Or register online: [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org)

Please reply by April 15, 2009. For more information, call (859) 255-5400.



# Some things are worth saving! **(Join Us)**

In a recent conversation with my pre-teen niece, I attempted to emphasize the importance of saving money. Her reaction was the common eye roll and “whatever” remark for which teenagers are notorious. She told me saving was boring; after all, there were many of the latest technical gadgets she could buy right now. In her mind, there wasn’t anything worth saving for.

Marriage has sadly become to be viewed in a similar way. If the relationship has become “boring” or lost its initial spark, couples too often opt to walk away instead of making a concerted effort to fight for and build the marriage – a trend apparent in the commonly quoted notion that half of all first-time marriages will end in divorce. Surely, these couples think, there are better alternatives out there – options that will make them happier and less miserable. In their opinion, there is nothing left in the marriage worth saving.

Interesting enough, research confirms the opposite to be true. One study found that for every two out of three unhappily married adults who were considering divorce, but opted to stay together, described themselves as happily married five years later. Of those that did choose to divorce, only one out of five had happily remarried in the same time period.

One example is David and Penny Hudson. Once on the brink of divorce, they now minister to couples through their Marriage Education and Resource Center in LaGrange (See story below).

Because the picture of marriage in Kentucky isn’t a

pretty one, we would be wise to listen to such research and encourage those who are struggling in their marriages. Without doubt, efforts to promote and strengthen marriage are needed in Kentucky. Consider the following:

- The Commonwealth consistently ranks in the Top 10 of states with the highest divorce rates, averaging approximately 20,000 divorces a year.
- Nearly 60 percent of divorces involve children.
- Divorce and related various forms of family fragmentation not only have long-lasting consequences for the adults and children involved, such as social and financial, but studies have also estimated their cost to the state at \$654 million annually.
- Over 39% of births in Kentucky are to unmarried women.

Of course, there are cases where abuse or adultery has wrecked a marriage. But the majority of divorces occur in what are considered “low conflict” marriages – marriages that could be mended with help.

The vast majority of Kentuckians agree that there is a problem with the state of marriage. In a 2004 University of Kentucky study on Kentuckians’ marriage attitudes, 87% of survey respondents said that divorce is a serious national problem. Further, 61% believed that society would be better off if divorces were harder to get, and 73% agreed that people who have children together ought to be married.

Most people recognize that marriage is undeniably beneficial for couples, children, and society and that

divorce carries some severe consequences for those involved, particularly children. Decades of social science research has confirmed the detrimental social effects that growing up in a home without two, biological parents has on children. These include dropping out of school, living in poverty, having a child out of wedlock and becoming involved in criminal activity.

In these challenging economic times, few financial advisors would recommend those planning for retirement pull their money out of their accounts. Though there may be risk involved, the best strategy is to stick it out for the long-term investment.

Just like saving money, the benefits of saving a marriage may not be realized for years to come. But it is worth saving!



**Sarah Roof is the coordinator of the Kentucky Marriage Movement for The Family Foundation**

*Sarah*

## A Testimony *by Penny Hudson*

*Real hope does exist for couples struggling in their marriages.*

We want to share with you a little of our history on this journey called marriage. We had a beautiful wedding in a beautiful church, but I’m afraid I was more interested in the order of the bridal party procession than what the minister was saying or what we were really committing to.

We went along fine for a few years, but after about ten years, we went through a very difficult time. We got busy trying to climb society’s ladder of success, and our greatest motivation was trying to accumulate all the stuff the world tells you that you need to be happy. We hit what some “experts” call the “misery” stage.

In addition, our first child was born. While I believe children are true gifts, I don’t think people prepare you for how a child will change a marriage. So we, like many parents, became child-focused and neglected our couple relationship. David began to do his thing, I did mine, and we grew further apart.

We wanted our relationship to work, but we didn’t know how to fix it. So we went to counseling. After four months and hundreds of dollars, the counselor told us he didn’t think our marriage was going to work and dismissed us.

We don’t blame the counselor. We had each gone with certain attitudes about fixing the other person. And it’s difficult to work with a couple whose primary focus is to blame the other and not take responsibility for themselves.

About two weeks after we stopped counseling, we received a brochure about a marriage enrichment program that was being offered at a local church. We went as a last-ditch effort.



**David and Penny Hudson**

It changed our lives. It changed our marriage. As we learned about how Christ loves us and began applying these principles to our marriage, our relationship began to heal. We had been doing the opposite of what Scripture tells us.

We also felt love and acceptance at the church. As a result, God used that seminar in a powerful way. I became a Christian and David re-dedicated his life to the Lord. We now know that if we want marriages to be all God intended them to be, we have to start with Him!

In relationships, the real issue is the state of our hearts. Are they open or

closed? In order for intimacy and deep connection to occur, our hearts must be open to God and others. God is in the business of offering us a fresh start. He did it for us and He can do it for others.

We’ve now been married 39 years. We are not still together because of any marriage program or anything we accomplished on our own, but we firmly believe God will use marriage programs and people He puts in your life to strengthen your marriage.

*David & Penny Hudson established the Marriage Education & Resource Center in 2004 to help couples make their marriages the best they can be.*

# An assessment of the 2009 Session from a family perspective

Continued from page 1

## Defensive Kill! House Bill 158 – Gambling Expansion/Slots at Race Tracks

During his time in the Attorney General's office Greg Stumbo wrote a legal opinion on whether a change in the Constitution was required in order for horse racing tracks to install video slot machines. The assumption among casino advocates had always been that a constitutional amendment was needed in order to expand gambling beyond the State Lottery. Stumbo's opinion, however, which critics say was written in anticipation of his later legislative effort in favor of expanded gambling, found that it was not necessary to pass a constitutional amendment for horse tracks to install slots.

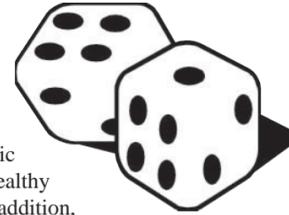
At the beginning of the legislative session, Stumbo announced he was introducing House Bill 158 to do just that: allow horse tracks to operate casino-style video slot machines. He first predicted that the measure would raise \$500 million per year, then that it would raise \$700 million. The estimate quickly grew to \$1 billion, about 35 percent of which would go to the state and 65 percent to the horse industry, which he argued was in financial trouble because of competition from horse tracks in other states that are subsidized by similar laws allowing expanded gambling.

Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation and spokesperson for the Say No To Casinos campaign, argued against the bill in testimony before the House Licensing and Occupations Committee. "This bill is an unconstitutional millionaires' bailout that won't work," he said. Cothran pointed out that no one – neither the lawmakers who voted for the original Lottery constitutional amendment in 1988 nor

those who voted to approve it at the ballot box – thought that approval of the Lottery also implied approving casino-style gambling of the kind that Stumbo was proposing.

Cothran also pointed out that the bill would be taking money away from those in lower socio-economic classes who are lured by video slots and giving it to wealthy people who run horse tracks and own horse farms. In addition, he argued, casino gambling in the current climate cannot possibly bring in the kind of revenues claimed by bill proponents. "There are casinos now going bankrupt because people don't have the discretionary income to spend on gambling," Cothran said. "How can we expect Kentucky, whose unemployment rate is higher than most states, to buck this trend?"

It became increasingly clear throughout the legislative session that the bill did not have enough votes to pass the House. It was brought out of committee, but was sent to the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, where it died without a full House vote. The bill, however, will likely be high on the agenda of House Leaders during a special session at the beginning of the summer if they can secure the governor's commitment to call such a session.



## Defensive Kill! House Bill 69 – Mandated HPV Vaccine for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls

For the third consecutive year, a bill mandating the HPV vaccine for girls entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in public and private schools was defeated, and it appears to be losing its momentum. This year a dramatic debate developed in the House Health and Welfare Committee and the result was that the bill never cleared its first committee.

"I hope that Kentucky will follow the rest of the medical community – the Centers for Disease Control, the American College of Pediatricians and the American Academy of Family Physicians – who all oppose a mandate," testified David Edmunds, policy analyst for The Family Foundation, before the committee on Feb. 12.

Edmunds' testimony in opposition to House Bill 69 began by reading the policy statements from various medical organizations that he had provided for the committee members in a packet with background information. It was then revealed during questioning of Edmunds that Chairman Tom Burch (D-Louisville), an outspoken critic of The Family Foundation, had not allowed the information to be distributed to committee members.

At that point, Rep. Brent Housman (R-Paducah) requested the packets be distrib-

uted so the committee could receive all the information they needed to make an informed decision. *(The video of these proceedings can be seen in the Citizen Action Center at [www.kentuckyfamily.org](http://www.kentuckyfamily.org) )*

After that embarrassing flap, Burch chose to pass over the bill, never calling for a vote. This failure was a marked difference from last year's effort where the bill cleared its House committee and then the full House with a 56-37 vote before being killed in the Senate.

"This victory for parental rights and safety should inform the bill's sponsor, Rep. David Watkins (D-Henderson) – a physician no less – that he should listen to the medical community before launching out on his own agenda," said Edmunds.

Nationwide, news of adverse reactions to Gardasil, including paralysis, seizure, and death, has helped those concerned for parental rights thwart government efforts to mandate the vaccine.



## Defensive Kill! House Bill 28 – Paternity Rights Over Marriage

Another bill that met a quiet end was aimed at overturning an important 2008 Kentucky Supreme Court decision that had a very significant impact on how marriage is regarded. In the decision, *Rhoades v. Ricketts*, the Court had to decide whether a man who had committed adultery with a married woman who became pregnant but went back to her husband could claim parental rights. The Court ruled that the child was the child of the marriage and that the biological father could not further disrupt the marriage by asserting parental rights, even though it was his biological child. The bill, House Bill 28, would have overturned the case.

The Family Foundation pointed out to legislators that the argument of bill advocates – that a biological father's rights trumped the rights of a married couple – could

be made just as well by the biological father of a child born by in vitro fertilization or of rape. At issue was the very sovereignty of marriage – this historic, yet unique covenant that binds the two halves of humanity together, male and female.

The bill barely made it out of committee. At that point, legislative leaders, informed of the problem with the bill, refused to let it come for a vote before the full House. This was a very significant setback because last year in the 2008 session the same legislation passed favorably out of committee and passed the full House with a vote of 95-1, only to die in the Senate.



## Offensive Victory! Senate Bill 1 – CATS Test Reformation

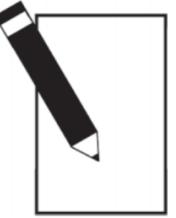
In perhaps the most illuminating event of the session, legislators in both the House and Senate came to agreement on two versions of a bill that would gut the instructional centerpiece of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) of 1990: the CATS test. Despite the fact that the testing system was the most controversial element of the education reforms, the bill to repeal it was *passed unanimously* in both the House and Senate.

"That not a dissenting vote was cast on this bill is an indication of just how unpopular it was," said Cothran, who has been the most prominent critic of the education reform over its 19-year history. "This is exactly what we at The Family Foundation recommended be done 12 years ago. It's too bad it took the legislature

so long to act on it."

School reform critics point out that the passage of SB 1 marks a significant point in the history of KERA. Since the school system had been "held accountable" by what was in the testing system – first the KIRIS test, then the CATS test – some insist that this is a major setback for those idealistic KERA proponents whose dreams were never realized.

New, more objective tests will now be designed for the state's schools over the next two years, and parents and teachers alike anticipate a system that evaluates not just the school, but also the progress of the individual students.



## Offensive loss: Senate Bill 79 – The Ultrasound Bill

The issue affecting families that shaped this year's General Assembly in the most profound way was "The Ultrasound Bill." Senate Bill 79 was filed early in this year's session by Sen. Elizabeth Tori (R-Radcliff). The measure would simply require that abortionists give women the opportunity to see an ultrasound of her unborn baby 24 hours before making a final decision about abortion.

The legislation sailed out of the Senate with a bi-partisan 33-4 vote on March 2 and then went on to the House where the Democratic Leadership would determine in which committee to place it. Last year, The Ultrasound Bill was sent to the Judiciary Committee where pro-choice Committee Chair Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) killed the bill on Good Friday after promising to give it a hearing and a vote. Advocates had their hopes on the new Judiciary chairman, Rep. John Tilley (D-Hopkinsville), who has described himself as pro-life.

In addition, pro-life advocates looked for new House Speaker Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg) to send it to a committee where it would have a chance of heading to the House floor for a full vote of that Chamber. Instead, House Leadership, under Stumbo's oversight, sent it to the House Health and Welfare Committee. Chairman Tom Burch (D-Louisville), knowing he could kill it in his committee, had lobbied to have it sent there and had even said publicly that he would "hear it on April 15<sup>th</sup>" (weeks after the Session would be over). On March 10, a dramatic 8-8 tie vote in Burch's committee

prevented the measure from getting to the House floor. *(The video of these proceedings can be seen in Spotlight on Kentucky at [www.kentuckyfamily.org](http://www.kentuckyfamily.org) )*

Before the end of the Session, committed pro-life senators amended the ultrasound language onto House Bill 241 after it had passed the House and moved to the Senate. They sent it back to the House with the hope of concurrence (agreement), thus giving it a second chance to pass. However, once again, House Leadership would decide whether the full House would get a vote, and Stumbo revealed on the next to the last day of Session that no more action would be taken.

Kentucky Right to Life Association's Michael Janocik, who had labored tirelessly with Executive Director Margie Montgomery, expressed disappointment. "This is a repeat of last year. The players are different, but the playbook remains the same: kill the pro-life bill in committee and then tell your constituents that you would have voted for the bill if it reached the floor."

David Edmunds of The Family Foundation had similar feelings. "It's more than disappointing – hundreds of babies' lives would have been saved in this year alone," said Edmunds. "But as more Kentuckians learn about this year's ultrasound effort and what is going on in Frankfort, then the better opportunity we will have in the future."



## Offensive Loss: Senate Bill 68 – The Child Welfare Adoption Act

The Child Welfare Adoption Act, Senate Bill 68, introduced by Sen. Gary Tapp (R-Shelbyville), would have required that children in Kentucky's foster and adoption systems be placed in homes where there is not an unmarried, live-in sexual partner.

The research indicates that children in unmarried, cohabiting homes fare much worse in terms of stability, abuse, and neglect than those in married homes. Even though the bill would apply equally to heterosexuals and homosexuals, gay rights activists mounted a campaign of intimidation against the bill sponsor and legislators that would vote for the bill.

To support their perspective, the Fairness Campaign hosted a protest at the Capitol which drew about 100 people and was given front page coverage by media outlets. Additionally, some senators reported that their e-mail boxes were filled with

vicious messages from activists.

SB 68 did get a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 6 where it passed unanimously. Time ran out for the bill in this "short" session, but the bill sponsor and others have stated a commitment to bring the measure back next year, claiming it is the "right thing to do for the children."

A poll commissioned by The Family Foundation found that 55.9 percent of Kentuckians believed children should not be placed with unmarried heterosexual or homosexual couples, while only 34.6 percent favored placing children in live-in situations. A similar poll that was commissioned by WHAS, confirmed Kentuckians' sentiments, finding 62 percent in favor of SB 68 protections.

*(Coverage of more bills of the 2009 Session continued on page 6)*



## Offensive Loss: Senate Bill 42 – The Public Decency Act

Regulating exploitative strip clubs is a no-brainer for Kentucky's family advocates, but The Public Decency Act turned into a laughing matter for House Speaker Greg Stumbo when interviewed by KET's Bill Goodman on the March 16 Kentucky Tonight program. Goodman asked Stumbo, "What will you remember most in the 2009 General Assembly?" Stumbo relayed a story about how the media had been asking what committee Senate Bill 42 (The Public Decency Act) would be sent to. His general counsel suggested "Tourism and Development," to which Stumbo broke out in laughter.

Supporters of the bill wonder why this was so funny to Stumbo. To the legislators who take their job of bettering Kentucky seriously, shedding *all* clothing in public for pay is hardly a defensible activity that improves our society. In fact, it is an activity that many legislators will go on record to oppose. The Senate passed SB 42 on March 2, by a significant, bi-partisan vote of 35-2.

The bill would simply prohibit total nudity in strip clubs and create a statewide health standard by mandating a buffer zone between strippers and patrons.

Stumbo sent the bill to the unfriendly House Licensing & Occupations Committee – the same committee that approved expanded gambling earlier in the session. There, SB 42 was never brought up for a hearing, even though the Kentucky County Judge/

Executive Association's Legislative Affairs Committee put their political muscle behind the bill and lobbied for its passage. Equally persuasive is the fact that 116 of Kentucky's 120 counties have already passed regulations similar to those contained in SB 42, which would undergird these local regulations.

Critics are wondering why, after 11 years of languishing in the General Assembly, The Public Decency Act has failed to pass. Some believe that several influential legislators continue to protect strip clubs. They point back to the 1996 political scandal where long-time Legislative Research Commission employee Kent Downey ran an illegal gambling and prostitution ring. According to state and federal investigators, several unnamed legislators attended events where strippers from Lexington "entertained."

The Public Decency Act is dead this year, but the issue will likely return in the 2010 Session where its fate will again rest in the hands of House Leadership. In the interim, constituents might ask: "If they don't want the standards of The Public Decency Act, then what standards do they want?"



## Offensive Loss: Senate Bill 186 – Alternative Education Act for Special Needs

In March 2008, Jeannie Montgomery removed her autistic 9-year-old from an Oldham County elementary school after discovering he had been locked in a "time-out closet" more than 90 times. Rep. Stan Lee (R-Lexington) and Sen. Ernie Harris (R-Crestwood) filed legislation this session that would give parents the power to place their special needs children in the environment that they deem the most safe and productive. The Special Needs Alternative Education Act (House Bill 118 and Senate Bill 186) would have given parents control, allowing the money that the state currently pays the school district for the child's special needs to follow the student to another public or private school or institution.

Even though the special needs funding would follow the child in leaving the school, the per-pupil base dollars would stay with the school. "It's a win-win scenario

for parents and teachers," says Becky Burton, a special-needs child advocate. "The district sees a net increase in funding and the parents have financial options."

Last year the bill was filed in the House, but went one step further this session by being filed in the Senate as well. "We are making progress by making people aware of the potential to help children and we will keep working for these alternatives in future sessions," said Burton.

Unfortunately, the respective bills did not receive a hearing in a committee of either Chamber.



## National Day of Prayer observed on May 7 in a city near you

*This year's theme is "Prayer . . . America's Hope."*

The 58<sup>th</sup> annual observance of the National Day of Prayer is scheduled for May 7 and Kentucky has more events this year than ever before. Besides a program on the State Capitol steps at noon, other gatherings will take place in local churches, on steps of courthouses and in public parks in all areas of the state.

Shirley Dobson, wife of Dr. James Dobson, has continued to chair the National Day of Prayer organization and Beth Moore, of Living Proof Ministries, is the Honorary Chairman for 2009. They along with Super Bowl winning coach, Tony Dungy, and NASCAR Legend and current FOX Sports Analyst, Darrell Waltrip, make up the team that is challenging America to pray.

The theme "Prayer... America's Hope" is based on Psalm 33:22 which states: "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."

To locate a National Day of Prayer event near you or to register one you are planning, go to [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)



*The new materials and the DVDs are ready. Volunteers are beginning to inform citizens and churches in a county-by-county effort about the*

***Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn.***

*To help in your county, call*  
**859-255-2000**

*or email*  
**[tffky@mis.net](mailto:tffky@mis.net)**

# With all the focus on the economy, many have missed the radical social agenda

*Armed with a teleprompter and left-wing ideas, the initial changes coming from our new President are not good.*

On the campaign trail, Barack Obama made things happen. With his speeches he could mesmerize a crowd. With his words he could move people to tears or laughter. Some even fainted at his rhetoric, according to reports by media. After all, he was the candidate for change. From the war to the economy, he would do things differently than his predecessor and that seemed to be what many wanted.

But for some voters, exactly what he actually would do once in office on social issues was unclear. Now, two months after Obama was inaugurated the 44<sup>th</sup> president, citizens are beginning to understand what kind of change he meant as the specifics of his social policies come into focus.

President Obama has already signed several significant anti-family and anti-life executive orders. In addition, several top posts in his administration have been filled with high-profile, left-wing activists. If, as the pundits say, personnel is indeed policy, then considering their resumes, the United States may be in for a long four years of



decidedly left-leaning policies that move us way beyond anything America has ever seen.

Referring to international affairs at the time, candidate Joe Biden, now Vice-President Biden, made these comments at a Seattle, WA campaign fund-raiser on Oct. 21, 2008. His words evidently also have bearing on Obama's social agenda:

*"And he's (Obama) gonna need help. And the kind of help he's gonna need is, he's gonna need you, not financially to help him, we're gonna need you to use your influence, your influence within the community, to stand with him. Because it's not gonna be apparent initially, it's not gonna be apparent that we're right . . ."*

Biden was apparently asking for blind trust and unquestioning obedience. Unfortunately it is now crystal clear that many of the decisions of this administration are genuinely misguided.

Consider the following:

## *Policies in "discussion stages":*

**DOMA — Defense of Marriage Act** keeps marriage between one man and one woman for federal purposes. In an Aug. 1, 2008 letter to the Family Equality Council, a Boston-based gay political group, Obama specifically pledged to use the presidency to overturn DOMA. He also pledged his support for homosexual "families" and efforts to redefine marriage.

**FOCA — the Freedom of Choice Act** would undo every state restriction on abortion, including parental consent, 24-hour waiting periods and bans on partial-birth abortion. On July 17, 2007 Barack Obama spoke to Planned Parenthood's Action fund and promised, "[T]he first thing I'd do as president is, is sign the Freedom of Choice Act . . ."

**U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child** — pits parents against children by crushing parental rights. If signed, it would overturn state-level parental consent laws regarding abortion; prohibits spankings and gives authority to children regarding religious training and education. President Obama has indicated his support for signing on, which would make the treaty part of U.S. law.

## *Radical nominees/appointments:*

**Dawn Johnsen** — former legal director for NARAL Pro-Choice. Nominated to head the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

**David Ogden** — represented pornographers, defended what some have called child pornography and is an outspoken abortion advocate. Confirmed as Deputy Attorney General on March 12.

**Thomas Perrelli** — represented the husband of Terry Schiavo and successfully had her feeding tubes removed which led to her death. Confirmed to the number three post in the Justice Department on March 12.

**Jan. 23** President Obama signs executive order to **rescind the Mexico City Policy** which prohibits U.S. tax dollars from supporting international groups that procure or encourage abortions.

**Feb. 27** President Obama takes the first steps to **rescind conscience protections for medical professionals**. Without the protections, they could be forced to take part in abortions (or other procedures with which they morally object) or lose their job.

**March 2** In an E-mail release sent to the media, White House Spokesman Thomas Vietor said: "The president supports **changing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell . . .'**" Obama has since begun consulting with military leaders to implement the normalization of homosexuality in the military.

**March 3** Obama administration endorses U.N. Declaration on world-wide **decriminalization of homosexuality**. "The United States supports the U.N.'s statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity . . ." said State Department Spokesman Robert Wood.

**March 9** President Obama signs executive order to **lift the ban on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research**. Tax dollars are now available to conduct destructive research on human embryos.

**March 10** Senate passes Obama's spending bill that **nixes voucher program** for 1700 students in Washington, D.C. White House Spokesman Thomas Vietor said, "The president has repeatedly said that school vouchers are not a long-term solution to our educational challenges . . ."

**March 24** Obama defends his proposal to **decrease tax deductions for charitable giving**. The policy will specifically affect wealthy donors only, but critics point out that this reduces giving to private-sector nonprofits, including churches and hospitals, while adding tax dollars to the federal government.

# We're making more changes . . . Can YOU help?

In an effort to succeed in these economic times, unlike government, we are doing what all families and businesses are doing – attempting to maintain existing income, cutting costs and being more effective/efficient.

Would you please help us by . . .

- #1 Contributing something at this time?** If everyone who receives the *CITIZEN* would give a little, we will have enough. Please give.
- #2 Helping us “clean” our mailing list?** If our address for you is partially wrong or if you receive duplicates, please call us at (859) 255-5400 or email us at [tffky@mis.net](mailto:tffky@mis.net) with corrections.
- #3 Introducing us to others?** You have friends who you KNOW would appreciate the *CITIZEN*. Send us their names and addresses. The more who are involved, the more impact (and support) we have.

Some people help us because they delight in the information we offer to them so they can make an impact. Some people see the big picture and simply want us to succeed with the values we promote, even though they aren't “hands-on.” And some people are both . . .

Whatever your reasons to assist, we do need your help!

Thank you.

## The Kentucky *CITIZEN*

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*OPINION: How gambling interests are trying to manipulate the debate for their own benefit.*

# Are casino-pushers distorting the constitutional process?

Once it became clear there was not the support to pass House Speaker Greg Stumbo's “Slots at the Tracks” bill in the 2009 General Assembly, his other strategy began to emerge: “Let's wait until the bar to pass the bill is lower – Let's wait for a Special Session.”

Allow me to explain . . .

As everyone knows, the State Lottery was authorized in 1988 with full

constitutional amendment proceedings. Citizens were told that the Lottery would fix all budget problems as well as provide “needed funds for education” if it was implemented. Clearly, the people were misled in many ways too numerous to list now – the same old deceptions of gambling-pushers.

The key point though is that *everyone knew a constitutional amendment was needed to expand gambling.*



This is important because not only do the citizens have an opportunity to participate if the legislature proposes to expand

gambling, but it also requires a 60 percent or “super majority” of the members of each Chamber to pass a constitutional amendment – 60 of the 100 members of the House and 23 of the 38 members of the Senate.

Knowing this high bar, Stumbo has suggested that there is no need for a

constitutional amendment to expand gambling further with video slots. He maintains that when the people voted in 1988, they voted to allow the legislature to decide gambling matters in the future. This is critical because if a constitutional amendment is not needed, then it would only take 51 percent of the members in each Chamber to expand gambling – that's only 51 House members and 20 Senate members.

The media has never questioned Stumbo's erroneous conclusion that gambling expansion can come without a constitutional amendment. As a result, Stumbo's problem this year was only that it was a “Short Session,” and no revenue-enhancing bills can be passed in such a Session without a super majority – back to the 60 vote and 23 vote super majorities *which he knew he didn't have.*

His answer? Ask the governor to call a Special Session *after* the 2009 Session because a Special Session does not require a super majority for passage of revenue-



**Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation**

enhancing bills.

Therefore, beware of a manipulation by the “casinos-at-the-tracks” people. I believe their “house of cards” will tumble down around them if they move forward with this scheme; but if they do, it will be a real test of the will of the people to keep the slots rip-off from coming into our Commonwealth.