

The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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Special Election: The Governor's candidate wins but his gambling agenda loses

It's a step toward the Governor's goal of controlling the State Senate, but he must recognize that citizens voted against gambling.

In mid-July, when Gov. Steve Beshear offered an attractive job to Sen. Charlie Borders and then quickly announced a Special Election on Aug. 25, everyone who is acquainted with Frankfort knew the Governor's plan was to secure another gambling seat in the Senate for his slots

machine bill. What he didn't count on was winning the seat with his candidate but

losing the overall vote on expanded gambling. And that's exactly what happened.

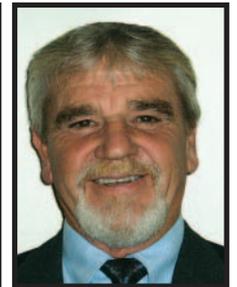
Webb won the election with 8684 votes . . . But with Gibbons securing 953 anti-gambling votes, when you add his to Ditty's total, the Governor received a clear message – 9355 to 8684 – that his slots bill is not as popular as his casino-advocate friends have told him.

former-Democrat-turned-Independent in Guy Gibbons. Though there are those who

As it turns out, there were three candidates vying for the seat: a pro-gambling Democrat in Rep. Robin Webb, an anti-gambling Republican in Dr. Jack Ditty and an anti-gambling

say Gibbons ran just to split the anti-gambling vote and throw the election to Webb, regardless, the Governor must recognize that the anti-gambling citizens cast more votes than pro-gambling citizens.

Here are the results: Webb won the election with 8684 votes. Ditty came in a close second with 8402 votes – 282 votes less than Webb. But with Gibbons securing 953 anti-gambling votes, when you add his to Ditty's total, the



(from left to right) Winner Robin Webb (Democrat), Dr. Jack Ditty (Republican) and Guy Gibbons (Independent)

Governor received a clear message – 9355 to 8684 – that his slots bill is not as popular as his casino-advocate friends have told him.

With the Democrat pickup of the seat, the balance of power in the Senate is 19 Republicans, 18 Democrats and one Independent – Sen. Bob Leeper (Paducah), who caucuses with the Republicans.

On the surface, Democrats need one more pickup to achieve a tie vote in the Senate and many observers expect the Governor to use the power of his office to repeat the exercise this Fall, offering another anti-gambling Republican a plum job in order to attempt another political switch of a Senate seat. But the Governor himself might be gambling in doing so – to offer a sitting Republican senator a great job and then have a Republican re-win the seat would be a strategic disaster.

And Gov. Beshear knows it.

Foundation mishandled in the election

The use of a nonprofit's name in a political ad without permission is a serious offense.

"It was a 'double-surprise' for me," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, after speaking at a seminar on gambling at a Methodist Church in Maysville on Aug. 11. Ostrander was reacting to a front-page story in the *Maysville Ledger Independent* in which Sen. Julian Carroll criticized The Foundation for holding a meeting in a church. Ironically, in the same edition, the Senator's choice of candidate, Robin Webb, had The Foundation endorsing her in a half-page advertisement.

"Unfortunately, both perspectives were absolutely false," said Ostrander. "We have never endorsed a candidate or authorized our name to be used in a political ad, and I'm sure it's obvious to everyone that churches have always been at the

forefront of raising concerns on issues that will result in the suffering of certain groups within society."

The half-page campaign ad stated, "The Family Foundation praised Robin Webb for her standing up for family values." The ad also asserted, "The Kentucky Right To Life congratulated Robin for sponsoring the Fetal Homicide Bill." The Kentucky Right To Life Association also took issue with the wrongful use of their name in a political campaign.

But Ostrander has stepped back from the details with an optimistic slant. "The bottom line can be viewed with a silver lining because Webb won on a pro-family and pro-life platform and now we hope that she'll live up to it."

Join me for a *Honeymoon for Life* ©

I was having lunch with my good friend Jerry Falwell a few years ago. We were at an Outback restaurant in Lynchburg and settled in for conversation as we waited for the food. Jerry was always a delight to be with – happy, positive and easy to talk to. We discussed a service at Thomas Road Baptist Church where I had recently spoken and made plans for a future speech at a Liberty University assembly. When we finished, I asked Jerry about a mutual acquaintance. Jerry looked down and said that he had left the pastorate in disgrace over a sexual scandal and had been divorced as a result. Jerry loved him and was trying to help pick up the pieces of the man's life and ministry.

Early in my marriage, my wife, Amy, and I were invited to speak at a summer family camp in Michigan. On Tuesday afternoon I sensed a need to speak on a Biblical view of sex. The immediate response was wonderful; numerous people thanked me for dealing with such an important topic. As I was leaving the auditorium an elderly man confronted me. He was furious at what I had said and told me that Christians did not need to publicly discuss such matters. What he did not know was that the youth minister who worked with the camp program had come to me the night before and confessed his sexual involvement with his young, unmarried assistant. They had been slipping off every night for sex. He wept as he asked my help out of his wrong situation.

Recently I spoke with a married, active deacon of a local church. He told how his addiction to pornography was wrecking his marriage. He needed help.

A young couple, married only three years, asked me how they could continue their love and passion for one another. They were already bored and concerned about their long-term future.

These are examples of the spiritual warfare raging in the homes of America. Christian or not, everyone is a target. Solutions are needed now.

Amy and I have had the pleasure and honor to work with couples for over 25 years. For the past 10 years, we have presented "Honeymoon For Life" marriage seminars to over 10,000 couples with extraordinary results.

One woman from St. Louis, married for 14 years, attended with her reluctant husband. She said that her husband had been an "unromantic clod" their entire marriage, but had seen a total change in just two days. She thanked God. I received an e-mail from them six months later. They were enjoying a romantic trip together and still using the techniques they learned at the seminar.

I love my Savior, Jesus Christ, my wife and children, and the people I am privileged to speak to. I also love my

home state of Kentucky. I was born in Paintsville and raised in Prestonsburg. Since my graduation from Asbury College, I have lived and traveled around the world, but my heart always comes back to Kentucky. I spent five years as the preaching assistant for Dr. Charles Stanley and still managed to come home every month.

I tell all this so you will know how excited I am to bring the "Honeymoon For Life" marriage seminars to Kentucky for the first time. God has used these seminars

to transform thousands of marriages. Over the years we have had a 90% return rate – its best recommendation!

The seminars are filled with up-to-date, usable information. People rave about the creative techniques and ideas. There is something for everyone at every point in the marriage adventure.

There are intimacy connectors,

communication tools, and conflict resolution solutions. Everything is Biblically based, in the best taste, practical and super fun. It is truly one of the very best seminars of its kind.

One of the finest features of the weekend is the happy atmosphere. Even serious subjects are handled in an up-beat way. One husband said that he had always dreaded marriage weekends, but this one was an unexpected surprise. His excited reaction is still one of my favorite comments.

This is for all types of marriage and all types of people. It is for good marriages that want to get better. These weekends are for you if you want a richer, more enjoyable marriage experience. They are for you if you are a pastor or someone in Christian leadership who wants to learn the latest methods to fire up any marriage.

Sign up today. Encourage your friends to come. Give the seminar as a gift to your married children or grandchildren.

Let the adventure begin!



Ron Ball

"This is for all types of marriage and all types of people. It is for good marriages that want to get better. These weekends are for you if you want a richer, more enjoyable marriage experience."

The Kentucky
Marriage Movement

Sign up now and save!

Honeymoon for Life ©

**Lexington
October 16-17**

**Hopkinsville
November 6-7**

For more information on Honeymoon for Life ©, read the articles on pages 2- 3 or call us: (859) 255-5400.

To register, complete and mail the form on page 3 or register online at www.kentuckymarriage.org. Note savings by registering before Sept. 20. Brochures and bulletin inserts are also available for distribution.

Honeymoon for Life[®] to be held in Lexington, Hopkinsville



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

Have you ever wanted to see just exactly how well you and your spouse could build your marriage? Have you ever wanted to help others strengthen their marriage? Maybe create a marriage ministry within your church so that others can fully receive all the blessings that come with healthy marriage? If the answer is “yes” to any of these questions, the Honeymoon for Life[®] seminar is for you.

The Family Foundation is pleased to partner with Ron Ball to bring his popular Honeymoon for Life[®] seminars to Kentucky. The week-end marriage enrichment seminar will be held on Oct. 16-17 in Lexington and Nov. 6-7 in Hopkinsville.

Ball and his wife, Amy, conduct annual Honeymoon for Life[®] retreats. He has presented to more

than 10,000 couples in 15 states and four foreign countries. A Prestonsburg native, this marks the first time Ball will bring the event to his home state of Kentucky.

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

“Ron is a great communicator that can truly bless an audience,” said Sarah Roof, coordinator of the Kentucky Marriage Movement. “We received a lot of wonderful feedback after he presented at our spring marriage seminars, and we’re so glad that we can provide an

opportunity for husbands and wives to hear his uplifting message about strengthening their relationship.”

Roof was referring to the “Marriage: It’s Worth Saving!” seminars that were held this past April in Madisonville and Lexington. At those seminars, Ball offered attendees a small glimpse into one of his Honeymoon for Life[®] events.

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

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

“Some churches have a well-established marriage ministry,” said Roof. “But many do not, and we hope to provide new ideas for both.”

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

Couples can register by Sept. 20 for a reduced rate of

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

For more, go to www.kentuckymarriage.org

Honeymoon for Life Registration Form

Check which seminar you would like to attend:

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

Registration Type:

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

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

Husband & Wife: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church (if applicable): _____

Detach this registration form and mail with payment to:

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

Or register online:

www.kentuckymarriage.org

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

Who should attend?

Coming does not mean you have marriage problems. It means you CARE about marriage – yours and those at your church.

- **Attend to strengthen your own marriage. (Remember, this isn’t an “emergency room” for bad marriages; it’s an *enrichment* experience.)**
- **Join with others in your congregation to send your pastor and his spouse, or other church staff members. (Note: October is “Clergy Appreciation Month.”)**
- **Come to learn tools you can use for your own church’s marriage ministry. Promote it to others in your church and have a “mini church retreat.”**
- **Send a couple as an engagement, wedding, or anniversary gift.**

Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn talk

The architectural plans are completed, the site on a bluff overlooking Frankfort has been purchased, and the bronze statue of Rachel

With the educational organizations shedding light on the realities of abortion and with the pregnancy care centers sharing down-to-earth compassion with those in untimely pregnancies, the other key component to help affect full healing in Kentucky is an effort to comfort those who have lost an unborn child, but have never had the opportunity to properly memorialize their loss.

“This Memorial is an outreach to all who labor under the painful loss of an unborn child by providing a special place of remembrance and closure,” said Kathy Rutledge, chair of the Steering Committee to construct the Memorial. “Families can find healing from the pain of miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion by honoring a child who was never given a proper burial.”

Over the last three years, the Steering Committee has: 1) commissioned an architect who has drafted plans for a “Washington, D.C. caliber” monument, 2) purchased a beautiful site in the historic Frankfort Cemetery, high on a bluff overlooking the Kentucky River and the state

capital, and 3) secured a life-sized bronze statue of *Rachel Weeping for Her Children*, the centerpiece of the project.

The task before the Committee now is to let every Kentucky citizen know that the plans exist and that the site will be a place of rest for all those who mourn an unborn child.

Citizens from across the state are invited to contribute, volunteer and help with the implementation of the vision.

Supporters point out that it will not only help the individual or individuals who have suffered such a loss, but it will also stand in our midst, collectively honoring the unborn as a testimony to the sanctity of unborn human life.

The Design

The Memorial is an original design created by Landscape Architect Mark Arnold. As Rutledge shared



her personal story, she said, “Mark remarked that he was envisioning a ‘Wailing Wall’ that enfolded in the shape of a womb.” At that moment the womb idea seemed odd, but a week later when Arnold presented his drawing, the artistic result was nothing less than astonishing. She believes God guided his hand to create a beautiful design that would miraculously touch and heal many broken hearts for years to come.

A granite memorial wall will bear the inscriptions for unborn children and gradually recede into the womb-like

“The Memorial is an outreach to all who labor under the painful loss of an unborn child by providing a special place of remembrance and closure.”

— *Kathy Rutledge*
Committee Chairperson



YOU can help with the Memorial

- Perhaps you would like to volunteer in your community to share the Good News about the Memorial
- Perhaps you would like to find out more about honoring an unborn child on the Memorial Wall
- Perhaps your church would like to take on the project of being a Founding Congregation of the Memorial
- Perhaps you would like to make a one-time contribution toward the cost of construction

For information or if you would like to help, please contact the **Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn** Steering Committee by calling (859) 255-2000, emailing tffky@mis.net, by writing to “Kentucky Memorial” P.O. Box 910312, Lexington, Ky 40591, or visit the website www.kymemorialfortheunborn.org.

Checks should be made out to “Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn.” Each gift is fully tax-deductible and, because the Steering Committee is all volunteer, 100 percent of your gift will support the project.

akes another step from vision to reality

Rachel has been secured. The next step is to invite every Kentuckian to help build a sacred Memorial.

section that showcases the bronze statue of *Rachel Weeping for Her Children*. Beneath *Rachel*, a symbolic spring reminds mourners that a Shepherd will guide them to living water, “. . . and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 7:17). The Memorial is designed to be a passage where those who have lost an unborn

“A voice was heard in Ramah, Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be comforted because they are no more . . . Thus saith the Lord, cease your weeping and your tears . . . there is hope . . .”

— *Jeremiah 31*

child can finally experience and release the buried grief they have carried in silence. The road to healing can be a long journey, but a walk through this healing and living garden will help pave the way.

The Plan

The Steering Committee desires to enlist the help of volunteers across the Commonwealth to share the good news about the Memorial throughout their communities. In this way, the entire state, on a county-by-county basis,



Rachel Statue

Seat Wall

Phase Two Wall

Parking Area

can share in construction of the monument. Through the establishment of this site as hallowed ground for families to use as a resting place and place of remembrance, members of the committee hope to build a caring community that will help generate an environment that God can use to generate healing and renewal throughout the state.

Committee members anticipate the fundraising for

the cost of construction to progress well as more Kentuckians learn about the project and hope for construction to begin in 2010. “Our primary goal is to get the message out about this Memorial’s existence,” said Rutledge. “Abortion and miscarriage have adversely affected families, and our mission to reach out and minister healing to those who suffer unresolved grief as a result of these tragedies is a worthy investment.”

Introducing the *Christian Educators Association*

Its mission throughout Kentucky is to “encourage, equip and empower educators according to Biblical principles.”

The education of society’s next generation is the heartbeat of the collective citizenry. A society passes on its culture and values through the channels of education. It’s not just a priority for teachers and parents but a bedrock issue for politicians and policy makers as well. Even recently the effort to expand gambling was piggy-backed on a proposal to rebuild school buildings across Kentucky. Pro-gambling policymakers felt that if they shrouded the slot machine issue in the cloak of improved education there would be no stopping the “slots for tots.”

The union bosses at the National Education Association (NEA) and the Kentucky Educational Association (KEA) have developed a track record over the years of supporting controversial political positions and candidates despite the protests of teachers with traditional values. In addition to slot machines, the teachers’ unions have recently supported abortion and gay marriage, positions considered by many to be in violation of the most basic values fundamental to the well-being of children. Increasingly, many teachers holding to Christian values are confused about what their rights are and are looking for an alternative to the union political machine that misrepresents the teachers they claim to support.

The Christian Educators Association (CEA) is an organization that gives teachers an option to the KEA and the NEA. Roger Dillon, who is the director of Kentucky’s chapter of CEA, said parameters put on faith in public schools often are misunderstood. Many principals, teachers and school boards have not been fully informed about the meaning of the Establishment Clause of the United States

Constitution which restricts Congress from establishing a religion but also allows for the “free exercise” of religion by teachers, students, or any other citizen.

“Our primary mission is to teachers,” Dillon said. “There is a huge amount of confusion regarding what you can or can’t say or do. We’ve been listening to the American Civil Liberties Union too long. Teachers and students actually have a lot of freedom.”

Dillon says that CEA serves a two-fold purpose: First, they support teachers and students in educating them about religious freedoms under the Constitution; and second, CEA is the only professional association specifically for Christian educators serving in public schools. CEA provides Professional Liability Insurance that many educators join the teachers’ union to receive.

“The membership fee is half of what the union charges because the NEA and KEA spend an incredible amount of money from teachers’ dues on lobbyists for a political agenda that is often non-Christian,” said Dillon.



For more on CEA, or to schedule a seminar on the religious freedom in education, call (502)618-1972; email KY@CEAI.org or go online to CEAI.org

Louisville townhall meeting with physicians, civil discourse is misrepresented by media

Politicians are claiming that concerned citizens are distorting the debate on health care. Unfortunately, the media is worse.

The media has been buzzing over Townhalls being held across the country on the issue of healthcare and the proposed overhaul by President Obama that is currently being debated in Congress. Most of what is reported is of unruly crowds and frazzled politicians.

On August 18, a different kind of Townhall took place in Louisville. Over 1000 people attended the packed event at the Hurstbourne Holiday Inn for a discussion with healthcare professionals about the impact that a massive government intervention might have on patients and their physicians.

David Edmunds, policy analyst for The Family Foundation was moderator for "The Ultimate Appointment." "The standing room-only crowd for this event was incredible, and the civilized discussion that ensued has the media baffled on how to cover the story," said Edmunds.

"The Ultimate Appointment" was the brain child of Dawn Wharton and Janet Cuthrell, two mothers who wanted their concerns addressed regarding healthcare. They secured a panel of respected physicians in the community including an oncologist, a pediatric neurosurgeon, an OBGYN, a dermatologist, a pediatrician, and an internist. Some of these respected physicians have been recognized as the "Top Docs" in Louisville; others trained at the Mayo Clinic, Harvard, and Duke. They shared their concerns about how a massive Government intervention could negatively affect patient care and discussed a wide range of topics including abortion, tort reform, the rationing of care and the treatment of cancer.

During the two-hour event, each physician voiced their concern from the perspective of their specialty. Also presenting was award-winning author, Wesley J. Smith, a Senior Fellow in Human Rights and Bioethics at the Discovery Institute. He is also a consultant to the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, and a special consultant for the Center for Bioethics and Culture. Smith discussed the dangerous ethical implications of the proposed healthcare reform as it relates to the dignity of every individual human life.

The event concluded with 45 minutes of questions from the audience. There were personal stories shared and a few disagreements with the panel, but the

entire discussion was held with civility and respect. As moderator, Edmunds lamented the fact that the media refused to pay attention to the civility and substance of the debate, looking instead to stir up controversy.

Edmunds introduced Dr. Ron Wright as "the best OBGYN in the country" but admitted he was biased because Wright delivered his daughter and will soon be delivering Edmunds' third child. "WHAS manipulated my 'I am biased' quote to frame its story that the whole event was biased," said Edmunds. "The media manipulation is out of control. I actually had a reporter and then a cameraman approach me at the podium trying to pressure me into asking questions they wanted asked. It is unfortunate that the media is so interested in controversy that they will create it and ignore a healthy discussion."

Despite the media manipulation, the civil discussion led by physicians has become a model that others around the country are looking to emulate.

THE ULTIMATE APPOINTMENT Town Hall



To see media distortion in the television news go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jaHIR-A7U

NOW our legislators are back in Washington.

**It is extremely important that you speak
your concerns as new plans are being formed.**

CALL and let your voice be heard!



**Health care is too important
to be left to bureaucrats.
*Make the call!***

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When judges play God

In 2008, American Atheists filed a lawsuit against the state claiming they suffered sleeping disorders and “mental pain and anguish” because the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security recognized “the safety and security of the Commonwealth cannot be achieved apart from reliance upon Almighty God.”

Well, they can finally get some rest. On Aug. 26, Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate struck down the part about relying on God, which leaves legislators and the rest of us wondering who we should now rely on.

“This is the very reason the Establishment Clause was created: to protect the minority from the oppression of the majority,” Wingate wrote in his 18-page opinion.

Even if this was true, who is to protect the majority from the tyranny of the minority?

The trouble with Wingate’s ruling is that it has no basis in our history. According to our founding political document, the Declaration of Independence, our

nation is predicated on the idea that law comes from God. Law does not originate in people. Nor does it reside

with special groups who clothe themselves in black robes, even if they might

confuse themselves with the Almighty.

Like the Office of Homeland Security, the Declaration states, “With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.” So if it was good enough for Thomas Jefferson and the other 55 signers to firmly rely on God, why is it so wrong with Kentucky acknowledging that

our protection comes from God as well?

To be consistent, atheists and sympathetic judges ought to take on the

preamble to the Kentucky Constitution and the Latin motto which was enacted in 2002. Then again, consistency seems to be in short supply these days. The official Latin motto is *Deo gratiam habeamus*. It means “Let us be grateful to God” and finds its basis in the Preamble of the State

Constitution which says, “We, the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, grateful to Almighty

God for the civil, political and religious liberties we enjoy, and invoking the

continuance of these blessings, do ordain and establish this Constitution.”

Wingate wrongly justifies his ruling by applying the First Amendment to this case, but such application is foreign to our history. The First Amendment was enacted to keep Congress from imposing a national church. It was not originally applied to states; several had state-sponsored churches into the early 19th

The question is who should decide how and when we acknowledge God – the people through their legislators, or judges who sometimes confuse themselves with God?

century. It was not until the 1947 *Everson* ruling that the First Amendment was applied to individual states.

Sponsor of the Homeland Security provision, State. Rep. Tom Riner (D-Louisville), responded to the charge that the language establishes a religion. “They make the argument ... that it has to do with a religion, and promoting a religion,” Riner said. “God is not a religion. God is God.”

At a very basic level, Wingate’s actions violate the separation of powers and usurp legislative authority. Legislators legislate. Judges are supposed to apply the law. Legislators hammer out public policy openly and consider public input. Judges render decisions privately with or without regard to public input. By striking down the legislature’s action without a firm basis in history or precedent, Wingate



Richard Nelson is the western Kentucky policy analyst for The Family Foundation

shifted the balance of power in his favor as other unaccountable judges have done for decades. This judicial activism is an undemocratic way of going about the Commonwealth’s business. By the way, when was the last time the legislature told a court it was wrong?

There are 32 references to God in state statutes and the constitution. The question is who should decide how and when we acknowledge God – the people through their legislators, or judges who sometimes confuse themselves with God?

Richard

A Brief History & New Developments

In 2006, when the Kentucky legislature amended the Homeland Security law, and in so doing recognized that our protection and security ultimately comes from God, it drew the wrath of atheists.

Edwin Kagan, national legal director for American Atheists Inc., called the law “breathhtakingly unconstitutional” and applauded Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate’s Aug. 26 ruling which struck down the provision recognizing our “reliance upon Almighty God.”

State Rep. Tom Riner (D- Louisville), who sponsored the language acknowledging God, told the Associated Press, “No government by itself can guarantee

perfect security. There will always be this opposition to the acknowledgment of divine providence, but this is a foundational understanding of what America is.”

Wingate said in his 18-page opinion: “The statute pronounces very plainly that current citizens of the Commonwealth cannot be safe, neither now, nor in the future, without the aid of Almighty God. Even assuming that most of this nation’s citizens have historically depended upon God, by choice, for their protection, this does not give the General Assembly the right to force citizens to do so now.”

But supporters say the law doesn’t force anyone to violate their conscience any more than the preamble to the state constitution which recognizes that we are “grateful to Almighty God” for our liberties.

Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway announced on Sept. 4 that he will appeal the ruling. “We believe there is a clear distinction in the law between acknowledgment of religion, which has been permitted for years, and the establishment of religion, which is prohibited by the Constitution,” said Shelly Catharine Johnson, deputy communications director for Conway’s office. “The statute in question merely acknowledges religion and should have been upheld by the court.”

The corruption is here

Those engaged in the debate over whether corruption will follow the introduction of slot machines into the state don't have to wait to settle their dispute. The corruption is already here.

Last year, supporters of slots at tracks tried to change the State Constitution to allow for casino gambling in Kentucky. In the regular 2009 legislative session, however, Gov. Steve Beshear and his legislative allies decided instead to simply ignore the Constitution, and proposed a bill to allow horse racing tracks to install slot machines.

Abandoning the argument that the state needed more tax revenue, proponents claimed that the state's wealthy horse industry was in

financial trouble. Arguing that there were 100,000 horse industry jobs in Kentucky (a claim later exposed as false by the *Lexington Herald-Leader*), supporters claimed that if the legislation was not passed, the horse industry would die.

But as soon as the argument was articulated, the industry that was pleading poverty hired an army of high-priced lobbyists at the state capitol.

Ignoring published report from the horse industry itself from the previous year that claimed the industry was doing well, Gov. Beshear and House Speaker Greg Stumbo then offered a bill that would have given the lion's share of the dollars to one of the nation's richest horse tracks, Churchill Downs. Churchill Downs, whose CEO receives a total compensation package of over \$4,000,000 according to a Business Week report and over \$6,000,000 according to Reuters, enjoyed an increase in net profits of 81 percent in 2008.

Then, during the summer Special Session when the bill ran into trouble in the State House, legislative leaders there shifted strategy yet again. They filled the bill with school building projects, and began arguing that the bill was then needed to help schools. The bill was now not just a gambling bill, but an education bill that was needed "for the children."

Despite threats that legislators who



Martin Cothran is senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

didn't vote for the bill would lose out on the school money, some legislators still refused. State Rep. Johnny Bell (D-Glasgow), told the media, "I found out today we change the rules in midstream, and if a person is not able to vote for the gambling issue, then their school

won't be built."

When charges of vote buying were leveled, House leaders blinked their eyes unknowingly and claimed that was not true.

But the vote buying worked, and the bill was narrowly approved by the House and sent to the Senate. A Senate committee voted down in 10 to 5 vote. Race track lobbyists and other bill supporters reacted angrily, charging the Senate with using underhanded tactics to kill the bill, although they could not point to any Senate actions that were not completely above board.

Race track lobbyists argued the bill would have passed if it had gone to the floor of the Senate. Ron Geary, owner of the Ellis Park track, claimed on Louisville radio that they had "twenty votes for the bill on the floor." But, in keeping with their previous less-than-truthful statements, this one too turned out to be false. When the industry began approaching Senators to sign a discharge petition to bring the bill to the floor, they couldn't find enough support.

Soon after the bill went down to defeat, John Forgy was fired from his position at the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. Forgy was the son of former gubernatorial candidate Larry Forgy, and the nephew of Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr, who had opposed the bill.

The distortion of the truth was matched only by a distortion of the political process, and more distortion is coming.

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Forgy had been threatened with the loss of his job because of his relationship to vocal opponents of the bill. The threat was carried out.

Shortly thereafter, Gov. Beshear lured Senate A&R Chairman away from his Senate post with a lucrative offer to serve on the Kentucky Public Service Commission, creating a vacancy in the Senate. In a special election, slots supporter Robin Webb defeated the anti-gambling opponent using a blizzard of money provided by the gambling industry.

The Governor is also expected to pick off another lawmaker in his attempt to

deliver the Senate over to gambling interests by appointing Sen. Dan Kelly (R-Springfield) to a judgeship.

The distortion of the truth was matched only by a distortion of the political process, and more distortion is coming. In the 2010 legislative session, expanded gambling proponents are expected to pressure the General Assembly once again.

Statewide and local updates and news alerts are needed more often in these days of public debate and discourse.

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