

# Speech – SB 688 Sports Wagering

By Rev. Mark Creech, Executive Director, Christian  
Action League  
Senate Finance Committee  
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Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Rev. Mark Creech, and I'm the executive director of the Christian Action League.

When you come to the Senate Finance Committee meeting, you come prepared to talk about business and its relationship to the state. So, I intend to do so.

First, let me say that to compare sports wagering, which is gambling, to any other business transaction would be misleading. The practice diverts people from labor. Money exchanges hands, but in the exchange, there are no material goods or services. Labor (working) always has intrinsic value because it leaves people with physical capital produced, and the money involved is tied to the value of the work performed. But whether it's sports wagering or some other form of gambling, nothing of value is produced or created by it. There is only a redistribution of currency on an inequitable basis.

Good business works on the fundamental principle of fair exchange, value for value. You may have been expecting me to make a moral argument, and there is a significant one to be made, but I appeal to you today on the basis of a stubborn financial fact, sports wagering only draws money away from the regular channels of

trade which are vital to the strength of a sound economy. Like all gambling, sports wagering is parasitic. Moreover, it undermines what is essential to a stable economy for our state and nation: a strong work ethic and the production of tangible goods and services.

I find it ironic businesses are now struggling to find workers because too many are willing to stay at home and draw a government check rather than work. Yet the media, at the same time, reports we've had record sales for the state lottery. I suggest that's not only because of the pandemic, but because the growth of gambling has helped contribute to our something for nothing mentality as a culture. So, while our eyes may bulge with dollar signs when looking at this bill, let me warn you that by passing such proposals, we are slowly sawing off the limb on which we sit.