



Speech on HB 347 – Sports Wagering/Horse Wagering Bill

Senate Commerce
By Rev. Mark Creech



Mr. Chairmen, members of the committee, my name is Rev. Mark Creech, and I'm the executive director of the Christian Action League.

Today, I wish to share with you in the most basic way what a bill of this nature contributes to our culture. And if you have already “made up” your mind in its favor, would you consider unmaking it for two minutes?

The motivations for gambling are primarily religious, even somewhat magical. It affects the basic orientation of life. It appeals to the weakness and worst of what is in all of us.

It characteristically promotes the “easy come, easy go” philosophy. It is an expression of recklessness. Gambling is not directed by reason or intelligence but depends on feelings, emotion, and chance.

Gambling quite subtly, unperceptively, produces a growing callousness to the interests and well-being of others. We may hitch it to various noble and charitable causes, but at its core the activity undermines service, stewardship, and a strong work ethic. In place of these, it establishes luck and chance as a new set of values.

All gambling fosters and awakens the spirit of covetousness - when we have that inordinate desire to possess what belongs to others and we don't provide a fair exchange or give anything in return.

These words are not just for church, but also for here. Because when the government sanctions a policy that works to shape a society of nonchalance, recklessness, callousness, thoughtlessness, by undermining sacrifice, responsibility, exertion, perseverance, and toil, we are writing a bitter future for the generations that follow us.

All the money in the world that we might gain from this bill, even whatever regulation it provides, can never replace the virtues that will be diminished because of its legalization.