



But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13
(NKJV)

Gambling expansion gets traction once again during the 2015 Legislative Session

MONTGOMERY, AL— After a highly publicized corruption case involving legislators and gambling bosses during the 2010 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature, and after the Republican Party took control of both the House and Senate in the 2010 elections, it seemed that gambling would not be an issue in our state for many years to come. However, with declining revenues in the Alabama General Fund Budget, the gambling bosses have once again convinced many legislators that legalizing and expanding Class III (casino-style) gambling in our state, including a state-wide lottery, is the answer to our state's fiscal problems.

Just like the Birmingham Race Course was going to be the “savior” of the Birmingham City Schools in the 1990s, and the Georgia Education Lottery was going to provide a college education for

every student in that state, and the Mississippi casinos were going to provide all the revenue that state would ever need, now, the gambling bosses in Alabama are promising more than they will ever be able to deliver. And, unlike past years when Republicans were on the “front lines” opposing gambling expansion in our great state, this time some Republicans are leading the charge.

Sen. Del Marsh (R-Anniston, and the President Pro-Tem of the Alabama Senate) introduced a bill that called for a constitutional amendment to legalize a state-sponsored lottery and would have placed casino-style gambling in the existing dog tracks throughout the state. The bill also called for the Governor to sign a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to allow full, casino-style gambling at all of the tribe's current locations.

Sen. Marsh's bill passed out of the committee he chairs, but failed to garner enough votes to be brought before the full Senate during the 2015 Regular Session.

Governor Bentley has promised to exclude gambling in his call for a special session later this summer. However, because gambling legislation would involve a constitutional amendment, it will only require a 3/5 vote of each house to bring it to the floor even if it is not in the call.

For this reason we urgently call on pastors and churches throughout the state to contact your Senator and House Member immediately! Strongly encourage them to vote against any and all pro-gambling bills and/or procedural votes!

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WHO WE ARE:

The Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), originally founded in 1937 as the Alabama Temperance Alliance, serves together with local churches as Alabama's "moral compass." This ministry provides an outlet for churches throughout Alabama to fulfill God's command to His followers to be "salt & light" in our culture. (Matthew 5:13-16)

In 2010 ALCAP became a 501c4 organization (non-profit, but NOT tax-deductible) and renamed its school program "American Character Builders," a 501c3 organization (non-profit AND tax-deductible), having its own separate Board of Directors.

Churches are encouraged to support ALCAP while individuals are encouraged to support American Character Builders with their financial contributions and prayers.



American Character Builders' own Bill Day using an electric drill to illustrate his point at a recent "Under Age – Under Arrest" public school event sponsored by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

American Character Builders continues to provide educational materials and programs for schools and churches

For more information on how your school or church can use resources provided by AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS visit our website: www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

These resources benefit schools and churches, as well as the entire community. If you would

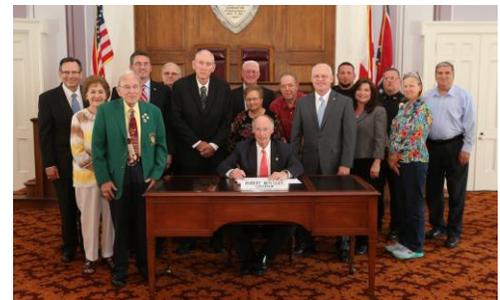
like to have someone speak to your school officials, church leaders or civic clubs about how our materials can be used in a community-wide effort, please contact our office to schedule a meeting or an event.

Contact Sharon Cook at: scook@AmericanCharacterBuilders.org.

Other News from the 2015 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature

ALCAP monitored 132 bills, 52% of which dealt with alcohol and other drug issues. Most of the alcohol-related bills were local bills that dealt with Sunday alcohol sales and/or draft beer sales. While ALCAP was unsuccessful in stopping these bills, we were successful in getting a bill passed and signed into law that makes powdered alcohol illegal in the state of Alabama.

We were also successful in getting a church vandalism bill passed after several attempts in previous sessions. James Bland, from Cleburne County brought this issue to our attention and Rep. David Standridge, with the assistance of Sen. Shay Shellnutt, got the bill passed and signed into law by Governor Bentley. *[Pictured above]*



The following letter was sent by email to the pastors and denominational leaders in our state whose email addresses we have on file at ALCAP, but for those who are not in our database and for all church members and concerned citizens, we are printing the letter here in our newsletter. It is a “call to action,” and we urge you to contact your legislators as soon as possible to voice your opposition to state-sponsored gambling in our state.

1 July 2015

Dear Pastors, Denominational and Church Leaders:

The Governor is expected to call a special session of the Alabama Legislature before the end of the summer. He has assured us that he will not be including gambling in the call. However, in order to bring up a constitutional amendment that would allow the people of Alabama to vote on a massive expansion of gambling in the state, even though not included in the Governor’s call, each house would only need to have three-fifths of their members voting in favor of such a move.

Recently, former Auburn Football Coach, Pat Dye, the retired CEO of Alabama Power Company, Charles McCrary, and the current CEO of Harbert Management Corporation, Raymond Harbert, have publicly announced their support for a constitutional amendment that would be similar to the legislation proposed by Sen. Del Marsh during the 2015 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. Marsh’s bill called for a constitutional amendment that, if passed by the people of Alabama, would legalize casino-style gambling at four of the dog tracks currently operating in the state, a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians that would allow them to have casino-style gambling in addition to the slot machines that the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Commission already allows them to operate (because they are “playing the game of bingo”) and would establish a state-sponsored lottery that would help to fund the General Fund Budget of the state. If such an amendment is placed on the ballot, millions of dollars from the pro-gambling forces will help flood our homes with ads pushing for this amendment. Churches will be the primary opponents and that means missions and ministry money will have to be used.

I have told legislators that the people of Alabama have already voted! First, we voted down a constitutional amendment in 1999 that called for a state-sponsored lottery, but more importantly, because we live in a representative republic, we elected legislators to make wise decisions on our behalf. If we are going to vote on gambling, let us vote on budgets and everything else we elected them to do, and we won’t need a legislature any longer! (That would save the state a lot of money!)

I am asking you and your congregation to contact your legislators (Senators and House Members) and courteously, but with resolve, ask them to oppose all pro-gambling bills (including procedural votes). Tell them that you do not want state-sponsored gambling corrupting our great state. If you need detailed information about why gambling is bad for Alabama and our nation, visit www.alcap.com and www.StopPredatoryGambling.org. You should also be able to click on a link at ALCAP’s website to find the name and contact information for your House Member and State Senator.

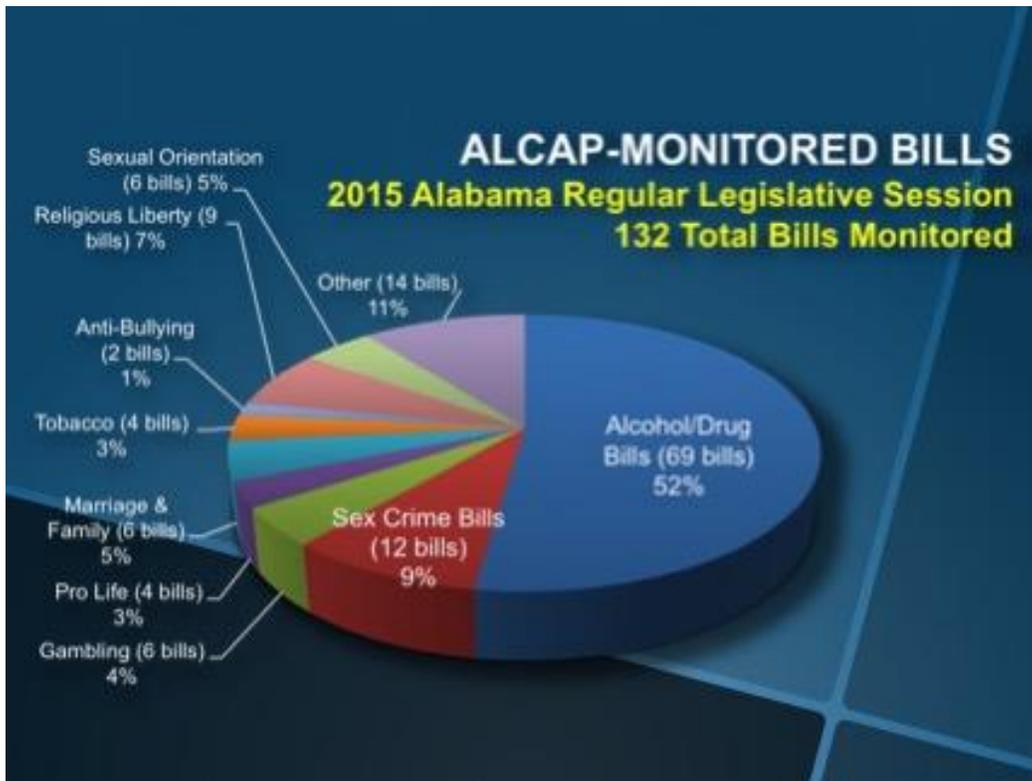
Act soon and contact your legislators more than once over the next few weeks to voice your opposition to gambling. We need to let them hear from the people of Alabama who elected them to office and not just from the friends of the gambling bosses.

In Jesus,
Joe Godfrey

In May, ALCAP’s executive director, Joe Godfrey, participated in a press conference near the United States Capitol in Washington, DC. The press conference was called to announce the formation of a new national coalition to encourage payday and title loan reform.



ALCAP continues to be involved in opposing the legalization of same-sex marriages. We were the first to host a prayer rally on the State House steps after a federal judge ruled that same-sex marriages were to be legalized in Mobile and we participated in a rally on the Capitol steps June 6. After the US Supreme court ruling on June 26th legalizing same-sex marriages throughout America, ALCAP participated in a press conference on the steps of the Alabama Supreme Court in Montgomery.



¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13–16
(NKJV)

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALCAP & AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS:



During the 2015 Regular Legislative Session, ALCAP hosted the national director of Stop Predatory Gambling, Les Bernal. Les talked with individual legislators, spoke at a press conference on the State House steps, was interviewed by Alabama Public Television’s (APT) *The Capitol Journal* host, Dan Daily, and participated in a town hall meeting organized by NBC-TV15 in Mobile, AL during his stay. Bringing in experts to help us educate legislators and the public concerning the issue of gambling, along with our regular expenses during the legislative session, sometimes result in a serious decrease in our cash flow. This is especially true during the summer months. With a special session expected in August or September, we will be even more concerned with managing our expenses.

Please consider having your church make a contribution to ALCAP during the months of July, August and/or September. ALCAP is a 501c4 organization, which means we are non-profit, but NOT tax-deductible. Since churches do not need tax deductions, it would be best if churches make their checks payable to **ALCAP**. If you are an individual and would like to make a contribution, or would like to contribute monthly to our ministry, you can make your checks payable to **American Character Builders**, which is a 501c3 organization that is a non-profit and IS tax-deductible.

Of course, more than all else, ALCAP covets your prayer support. We are engaged in spiritual warfare and we need for your church to lift us to the Lord in prayer. Please add ALCAP to your church prayer list and, if possible, to your church budget as you prepare for 2016. Or, consider hosting an “ALCAP & American Character Builders Sunday” in which you will collect a special offering for this important ministry.

Joe Godfrey