



Georgia Baptist Mission Board

RESOLUTION ON GAMBLING

Submitted by Brad Waters, Messenger from First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst, GA

WHEREAS, A recent Gallup Poll showed that 82 percent of Americans favored some form of legalized gambling, we stand firm in our resolve that gambling is an immoral effort that creates deliberate risks not inherent in or necessary to the functioning of society; and

WHEREAS, Gambling often appeals to greed and covetousness (Luke 12:15; I Timothy 6:9-10), and gamblers win at the direct economic loss of others (I Corinthians 13:5; Romans 13:10; Matthew 7:12), gambling is contrary to honest work and responsible stewardship (Ephesians 4:28; I Corinthians 4:1-2) and gambling is highly addictive (I Corinthians 9:25; Galatians 5:23), and

WHEREAS, Aggressive actions by the gambling interests in recent months make abundantly clear their intention of seeking to expand legalized gambling in Georgia, including pari-mutuel gambling or wagering on horse racing; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state corporations and businesses are poised to invest millions of dollars in a bold effort to change state laws to allow casinos and pari-mutuel gambling; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Horse Racing Coalition hails the fact that pari-mutuel wagering is legal in 43 states, including our neighboring state of Florida and is aggressively lobbying for pari-mutuel wagering in Georgia, claiming that it will provide tax revenue and employment opportunities, and

WHEREAS, Many legislators have shown a shameful willingness to give careless and inadequate consideration to gambling legislation, to pass legislation out of committees without public hearings, and to schedule votes on gambling legislation in a manner carefully contrived to be beneficial to passage of the gambling legislation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting in Macon, November 10-11, encourage Georgia Baptists to work diligently with other Christians and other responsible citizens who oppose the spread of legalized gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention to engage in vigorous programs of education for adults, teenagers, and children about the moral tragedies wrought by legalized gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our prayerful support and strong encouragement for those who are providing courageous leadership in vigorously opposing the legalization of gambling both in the states where votes are scheduled and at the national level where pressure is building in support of legalized gambling;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we pray for Baptists to have the moral courage to stand strong in the face of this ominous threat to our state and lend our aid and support to Mike Griffin and our Public Affairs Ministry as we confront this menacing issue in the days to come.