

**RESOLUTION AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF
LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN INDIANA**

WHEREAS: As people of faith, we believe that gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic and spiritual life, and destructive of good government;

WHEREAS: Those who can least afford to gamble are those who tend to play the lottery. The state should not be involved in promoting an activity that adversely affects the poor who will be using state services and need state care. Each year more than an estimated 20,000 compulsive gamblers endanger their families with financial ruin.

WHEREAS: The Indiana State General Assembly believes that the social costs, caused by the amount of casino gambling in Indiana, does not outweigh the financial gain of gambling revenue to the state. This according to "A Benefit-Cost Analysis of Indiana's Riverboat Casinos for year 2005," released in January 2006 by the Indiana Legislative Council and the Indiana Gaming Commission.

WHEREAS: The Indiana State government has become dependent upon legalized gambling revenue as a steady flow of income to finance government supported programs. Indiana can't be a healthy state and have public policy driven by its addiction to gambling revenues. The state has received more than \$8 billion in gambling revenue since 1989.

WHEREAS: The Indiana General Assembly has recently expanded legalized gambling in the state of Indiana by legalizing casino-style slot machines at horse tracks in Shelbyville and Anderson permitting 4,000 more slot machines to be introduced into the state.

WHEREAS: The Hoosier State Lottery, which is marketed heavily to lower-income citizens, is an abuse of the main goal of state government to provide for the common welfare of its citizens and that the Indiana General Assembly has considered leasing the Hoosier State Lottery which, if approved would expand legalized gambling as well as keep that expansion in place for 30 years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the South Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church:

- Endorses public policy measures through a Public Question to end the expansion of legalized gambling in any and all forms by the Indiana State General Assembly permitting the citizens to have their say;
- Calls for a permanent freeze on the expansion of legalized gambling in state sanctioned riverboat casinos, the State Lottery, in bars and private clubs, and slot machine facilities at the state's two horse racing tracks;
- Opposes legislation which leases the Hoosier State Lottery, which will expand lottery gambling in Indiana;
- Opposes legislation that will permit electronic gambling devices to be placed in bars, restaurants, private clubs and other businesses which hold a liquor license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the undersigned faith organization will inform its members and the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution, and work to educate the Governor and the members of the General Assembly about the toll of gambling on Indiana families and the need for aggressive action to prevent and reduce gambling in the state, especially by families.

Person: Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Rev. / Dr. or Other: _____

Name (Print): _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone, Fax, E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to the Indiana Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, 6337 Crestview Lane, Indianapolis, IN, 46204, Fax: (317) 924-4859. For more information, call (317) 845-5655 or e-mail lclemenz@sbcglobal.net.