

Rangel	Schiff	Udall (NM)
Reyes	Serrano	Velazquez
Rivers	Sherman	Waters
Rodriguez	Slaughter	Watkins (OK)
Roemer	Smith (WA)	Watson (CA)
Rothman	Solis	Weiner
Royal-Allard	Souder	Wexler
Sabo	Stark	Woolsey
Sanchez	Thompson (CA)	Wu
Sanders	Tierney	Young (AK)
Schakowsky	Udall (CO)	

NOT VOTING—12

Burton	Kind (WI)	Scott
Crane	Nadler	Traficant
Hall (OH)	Ose	Waxman
Hyde	Riley	Weldon (PA)

□ 1545

Mrs. KELLY changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 87, just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GAMBLING

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of the House to an open letter from 220 religious leaders to the President of the United States and Congress on the spread of gambling.

They said, "We, the undersigned, represent a variety of faith perspectives and religious beliefs. We hold different convictions regarding many of the most prominent issues of the day, yet we are united in our opposition to legalized gambling and we respectfully urge Congress to begin to address the devastation that gambling has wrought on our children and families and communities as a Nation."

And then they go on to talk about the faith community can provide countless stories of families shattered by gambling addiction.

It was a full page ad in Roll Call. I urge Members to look at it and see. This Congress ought to begin to deal with this issue of the spread of gambling.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM 220 RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS ON THE SPREAD OF GAMBLING

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We, the undersigned, represent a variety of faith perspectives and religious beliefs. We hold differing convictions regarding many of the most prominent issues of our day. Yet we are united in our opposition to legalized gambling. We believe it to be a moral and cultural cancer. Therefore, we respectfully urge

Congress to begin to address the devastation that gambling has wrought on our children, families, communities and nation. Consider just the following sampling of gambling's toll on America's citizenry:

Gambling exploits those with the fewest financial resources, as both a multitude of studies and our own experiences in our individual communities readily confirm. A few months ago we were inundated with glowing press accounts of the Powerball winner from Kentucky who gambled part of his unemployment check to attain the jackpot. How many tens of thousands of others in similar circumstances squandered their meager income chasing this state-sponsored fantasy and wound up without enough money to pay the rent or put food on the table? According to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC), individuals earning less than \$10,000 per year spend more on lottery tickets every year than any other income group.

Each of us—and the faith communities we represent—could provide countless stories of families shattered by gambling addiction. We are often the ones forced to pick up the pieces of lives ripped apart by divorce and domestic violence. According to a survey by the NGISC, gambling has been responsible, in whole or in part, for more than 2 million divorces in recent years. Child abuse and neglect are other effluents of gambling's explosive growth. In addition, research indicates that children of gambling addicts do more poorly in school, experience more behavioral problems, and are more susceptible to gambling addiction themselves.

The gambling boom has made our communities more dangerous places to live. Gambling operations attract crime, and they create new criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens. Studies confirm that more than half of gambling addicts will engage in illegal activities—everything from embezzlement to armed robbery—to fund their compulsion to gamble.

Gambling has subverted the rightful role of government as protectorate of the people. Casinos in particular have bought favors with politicians at all levels, thus enabling them to spread their poison product into even more communities. In the most recent election, gambling interests lavished \$10.9 million on candidates and parties at the federal level alone. That does not include the multi-millions spent on lobbying, nor does it take into account that gambling interests have become the single most powerful force in a number of state governments. All of this influence comes at a terrible price that is paid for by the gambling industry's multitude of victims.

The rapid increase in legal gambling opportunities has created a concomitant boom in the number of gambling addicts. According to the NGISC, more than 15 million Americans struggle with a significant gambling problem—and the repercussions are often profound. Perhaps no single statistic better reveals the depth of despair associated with gambling addiction than this: One in five of those who become addicted to gambling will attempt to take his or her own life.

Legal gambling operations entice teenagers to delve into this dangerous activity. Many become trapped. Studies show that the rate of gambling problems among adolescents is dramatically higher than that for adults. Hundreds of thousands of teens regularly access casinos, lotteries, and other legal betting venues despite age regulations to the contrary. Further, aggressive and omnipresent gambling advertising campaigns disparage the ethic of work, diligence and study while bombarding teens with the idea that gambling is the means to get rich quick.

Gambling has become a blight on our nation's cultural landscape. As religious leaders, we see the gambling-induced pain and devastation among many of those who look to us for spiritual guidance. Thus, we stand together not only in our concern, but in our commitment to oppose this predatory and destructive industry. We call on members of Congress to place America's citizens and families ahead of the false promises and hefty political contributions of the gambling industry, and to begin to address this rapidly growing menace to our national welfare.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Bailey, President, Dallas Theological Seminary.

The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr., Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ron Black, Executive Director, General Association of General Baptists.

Dr. Bill Bright, Founder and Chairman, Campus Crusade for Christ.

David Bryant, Chairman, America's National Prayer Committee.

Commissioner John Busby, National Commander, The Salvation Army.

Dr. Gaylen J. Byker, President, Calvin College.

Tony Campolo, Ph.D., President, The Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education.

Dr. Judson Carlberg, President, Gordon College.

Dr. Morris H. Chapman, President & CEO, Southern Baptist Convention, Executive Committee.

Charles W. Colson, Chairman of the Board, Prison Fellowship Ministries.

Dr. Clyde Cook, President, Biola University and Talbot School of Theology.

Kenneth L. Connor, President, Family Research Council.

Dr. James C. Dobson, President, Focus on the Family.

David H. Engelhard, General Secretary, Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Dr. Tony Evans, President, The Urban Alternative.

Reverend Jeff Farmer, President, Open Bible Churches.

Bruce L. Fister, Lt. Gen. USAF (Ret.), Executive Director, Officers' Christian Fellowship.

Leighton Ford, President, Leighton Ford Ministries.

Dr. Stan D. Gaede, President, Westmont College.

Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Gillespie, President, Princeton Theological Seminary.

William Graham, Acting Dean, Harvard Divinity School.

The Rt. Rev. J. Clark Grew II, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, United Methodist Church, Boston Area.

Rev. Paul Hirschy, Bishop, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA.

Dr. David W. Holdren, General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church.

Clyde M. Hughes, Bishop, International Pentecostal Church of Christ.

L. Gregory Jones, Dean and Professor of Theology, Duke Divinity School.

Rev. Dr. Walter C. Kaiser, President, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Benjamin Kamenetzky, Executive Director, Yeshiva of South Shore.

D. James Kennedy, Ph.D., Senior Minister, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Clifton Kirkpatrick, State Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Dr. Richard Land, President, Ethics and Religious Liberty, Commission of the SBC.

Rabbi Abraham S. Lefkowitz, Chaplain, Nassau County Police Department.

Dr. Duane Litfin, President, Wheaton College.