

**NATIONAL MINISTRIES  
RESOLUTION ON GAMBLING AND STATE REVENUE**

As American Baptists we deplore the growing legalization of gambling and the state promotion of gambling. Dependence on gambling revenue has led many states to exploit the weaknesses of their own citizens, collect a disproportionate amount of revenue from those least able to pay and neglect the development of more equitable forms of taxation. The state promotion of gambling as a way to raise revenue and the sponsorship by the state of lotteries, numbers games and other forms of gambling places the state in a position where it educates, acculturates and encourages persons to gamble and uses state funds to do so.

Further, the designation of revenue for gambling for schools, hospitals, the elderly and other social needs gives gambling the appearance of making a contribution to society while ignoring the social costs of poverty, crime and corruption which accompany gambling.

The legalization of gambling does not eliminate illegal gambling and there is some evidence that the illegal grows along with legal gambling. Rather than eliminating corruption and crime legalized gambling has opened opportunities for them to grow and flourish.

**THEREFORE:**

We call upon American Baptists to oppose efforts to initiate or to expand gambling in their states and to protest state promotion of gambling.

**Adopted by the Board of National Ministries - December 3, 1978**

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**POLICY BASE**

American Baptist Convention Resolutions

1965 - Gambling

1963 - Gambling and Lotteries

1960 - Gambling

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