



## **Resolution on Avowing Opposition to Casinos in Tennessee Tennessee Baptist Convention Cordova, 2022**

WHEREAS, It is the desire of some members of the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives to legalize casinos, casino gambling, and bingo within the borders of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, During the 2022 Session of the Tennessee Legislature, House Bill 1642 and Senate Bill 1656, before being withdrawn, if passed and signed by the Governor, would have set into motion the process to allow any federally recognized Indian tribe residing on tribal lands held in trust by the United States government within Tennessee to obtain a license from the National Indian Gaming Commission to conduct gaming operations (casinos, bingo, etc.) within Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, The sponsors of House Bill 1642 and Senate Bill 1656 have publicly stated their intention to reintroduce this issue in the 2023 Session of the Tennessee Legislature;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, Each member of the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives shall, before they proceed to business, take an oath or make an affirmation to support the Constitution of this state and of the United States and also the following oath: I (name of representative) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that as a member of this General Assembly, I will, in all appointments, vote without favor, affection, partiality, or prejudice; and that I will not propose or assent to any bill, vote or resolution, which shall appear to me injurious to the people, or consent to any act or thing, whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared by the Constitution of this state;<sup>2</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2022/05/20/tennessees-first-casino-possible-choctaw-leaders-work-legislators/7383423001/?utm\\_source=tennessean-DailyBriefing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=daily\\_briefing\\_greeting&utm\\_term=list\\_article\\_thumb&utm\\_content=PNAS-1056TN-E-NLETTER65](https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2022/05/20/tennessees-first-casino-possible-choctaw-leaders-work-legislators/7383423001/?utm_source=tennessean-DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing_greeting&utm_term=list_article_thumb&utm_content=PNAS-1056TN-E-NLETTER65)

<sup>2</sup> Article X, Section 2, Tennessee Code Annotated.



WHEREAS, The State of Tennessee has legalized state-sponsored gambling with the Lottery and online sports betting; and

WHEREAS, The Gambling Clinic at the University of Memphis estimates that potentially 300,000 Tennesseans could struggle with gambling during their lifetime, and about 125,000 of those could be classified as having a gambling disorder;<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS, East Tennessee State University Professor Meredith Ginley says of those with gambling addictions, "You've done damage to your family, you've done damage to your finances, maybe you've lost your house because of this — and people will say 'it was just a slot machine, didn't you know the odds, how were you so stupid' — there's a lot of stigma there."<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus commanded His followers to love their neighbors as themselves (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31); and

WHEREAS, We understand that we are our brother's keeper (Genesis 4:9); and

WHEREAS, We are commanded to assist people in need when they cannot provide for themselves, and we are not to oppress, rob, or take advantage of others (Leviticus 19:9-18); and

WHEREAS, We are to restore gently those overtaken by any wrongdoing (Galatians 6:1-2); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention, meeting at Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee, November 15-16, 2022, firmly avow our opposition to any additional state-approved gaming within Tennessee; and be it further

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2022/09/27/sportsbooks-proliferate-as-compulsive-gambling-does/69496923007/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ggbnews.com/article/university-opens-tennessees-2nd-gambling-treatment-clinic/>



RESOLVED, That we encourage all Tennessee Baptists to pray for our elected officials to have the wisdom to acknowledge and avoid the dangers associated with casinos and casino and bingo gaming; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge all Tennessee Baptists to personally contact their State Senators and State Representatives expressing opposition to any attempt to bring this type of gaming to our state; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we appeal to all Tennessee Baptists to contact Tennessee Governor Bill Lee expressing support for his continued opposition to casinos, casino gambling, and bingo in Tennessee.