

Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218



February 24, 2024

Dear Governor Youngkin,

As stewards of our communities, we come together to voice our deep concerns regarding Virginia's House Bill 590 and Senate Bill 212. These bills, which aim to legalize "skill" games across our state, pose significant risks to our neighborhoods, families, and the integrity of Virginia.

Advocates for these unattended gaming machines argue they will boost tax revenue and support local businesses. However, the reality is far from the rosy picture they paint. Instead of fostering genuine economic growth, these machines divert consumer spending away from productive endeavors, potentially harming small businesses. It's the wealthy out-of-state corporations behind these machines who stand to benefit, preying on vulnerable communities and perpetuating cycles of poverty and despair.

The negative effects of these machines extend far beyond economic concerns. They tear at the fabric of our families, driving a wedge between loved ones and causing untold pain and suffering. Gambling addiction has devastating consequences, not only for the individual affected but for their entire family unit. Financial ruin, broken relationships, and emotional turmoil are all too common in households where gambling addiction takes hold.

The potential consequences of this legislation are alarming. If passed, it would inundate our communities with tens of thousands of unattended "skill" gaming machines, effectively transforming everyday establishments into makeshift gambling venues. This rampant proliferation of gambling machines poses a clear threat to the safety and ethical standards of our neighborhoods.

Already, we've seen the negative impact of similar machines in Virginia. Businesses that installed gray slot machines before the ban experienced a surge in criminal activity. Shootouts and thefts have become disturbingly common in areas where these machines operate, putting innocent lives at risk.

We ask you to stand up for Virginia's children, our most vulnerable community. Given their proximity to schools and residential areas, these machines would be easily accessible to minors, exposing them to harmful influences at an impressionable age. Not only will our children be surrounded by unattended slot machines, but they will also be in the crosshairs of criminal activities invited by these unattended mini-casinos.

We urge you, Governor Youngkin, to prioritize the well-being of our citizens over the interests of powerful out-of-state corporations, particularly the most vulnerable among us. We implore you to VETO House Bill 590 and Senate Bill 212 (in any final form), thereby safeguarding the sanctity of our neighborhoods and protecting our families and children from the detrimental effects of gambling addiction.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving the residents of our state. Your dedication to upholding the best interests of our community is commendable, and we trust that you will make the right decision for the people you represent.

Respectfully yours,

Pastor Thomas Alvis
Mt Moriah Baptist Church
Powhatan, VA

Evangelist Byron Foxx
Byron Foxx Evangelistic
Newport News, VA

Pastor Tim Weems
Grace Baptist Temple
Blackstone, VA

Pastor John Godfrey, Jr.
Great Hope Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA

Pastor Russell Biber
Oak Park Road Baptist Church
Madison, VA

Pastor Randy Blackwell
Holly Hills Baptist Church
Powhatan, VA

Pastor Greg Gray
Calvary Baptist Church
Smithfield, VA

Pastor Rick Phillips
Calvary Baptist Church
Midlothian, VA

Pastor Ray Haskett
Calvary Baptist Church
Colonial Heights, VA

Pastor Bob Hardman
Hunterdale Baptist Church
Franklin, VA

Pastor Mark Crockett
Clover Hill Baptist Church
North Chesterfield, VA

Pastor Mark Carpenter
Heritage Baptist Church
Woodbridge, VA

Pastor Dave Cashman
Community Baptist Church
Surry, VA

Pastor Shane Brinson
Faith Baptist Church
Prince George, VA

Pastor Layne Lashley
Victory Baptist Church
Staunton, VA

Pastor Dave Conyers
Bethel Baptist Church
Charlottesville, VA

Pastor Greg Rogers
Grace Memorial Bapt. Church
Bedford, VA

Pastor Ken Biggs
Crossroads Baptist Church
Fredericksburg, VA

Pastor Dave Seabolt
New Hope Baptist Church
Gloucester, VA

Pastor James Baker
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Virginia Beach, VA

Pastor Tim Kirchoff
Green Valley Baptist
Midlothian, VA

Pastor Steve Boots
Mt. Victory Baptist Church
Henrico, VA

Pastor Will Archer
Potomac Valley Church
Prince Williams, VA

Pastor Erik Hastings
Truth Baptist Church
Mechanicville, VA

Pastor John Charles
Central Baptist Church
Yorktown, VA

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Albemarle Baptist Church
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Community Baptist Church
Richmond, VA

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Pastor Steve Rebert
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Winchester, VA

Pastor Kelly Darnell
Diamond Springs Baptist
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Chesapeake, VA

Pastor Doug Wright
Keystone Baptist Church
Berryville, VA

Pastor Matt Nettesheim
Chesapeake Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA

Pastor Justin Spradlin
Calvary Baptist Church
Spotsylvania, VA

Pastor Mike Reid
Temple Baptist Church
Fredericksburg, VA

Pastor Peter Chegue
Lighthouse Baptist Church
Charlottesville, VA

Pastor Joey Amory
Indian Creek Welcome Baptist
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Pastor Chuck Pearson
Tidewater Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA

Pastor Watson Morgan
Temple Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA

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Faith Baptist Church
Emporia, VA

Pastor Sherman Davis
Tabernacle Baptist Church
King George, VA

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Grace Baptist Church
Woodstock, VA

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Hampton Roads Ind. Baptist
Hampton, VA

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Crossroads Baptist Church
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Chesapeake, VA

Pastor Dale Freeman
Fellowship Baptist Church
Madison, VA

Pastor Lee Godfrey
Fairview Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA

Pastor Frank Hall
Valley Baptist Church
Stuart's Draft, VA

Pastor Jerry Davis
Broadway Baptist Church
Hopewell, VA

Pastor Richard Pickens
New Day Church
Virginia Beach, VA

Pastor John Stamatelotos
Fellowship Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA

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People's Baptist Church
Penn Laird, VA

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Belle Meadows Baptist
Bristol, VA

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Bear Lithia Baptist Church
Elkton, VA

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Good News Freewill Baptist
Chesterfield, VA

Pastor Gary Nicholson
Page Valley Baptist Church
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Heritage Baptist Church
Brandy Station, VA

Pastor Travis Keith
Gospel Light Baptist Church
Powhatan, VA

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Mill Swamp Baptist Church
Ivor, VA

Pastor John Parlett
Forward for Christ Baptist
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Calvary Baptist Church
Norfolk, VA

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Rock of Ages Prison Ministry
Hampton, VA

Evangelist Carey Charles
The Edge Christian Camp
Spring Grove, VA

Evangelist Jerry Whitlow
Rock of Ages Prison Ministry
Bassett, VA

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Victory Independent Baptist
Roanoke, VA

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Faith Baptist Church
Colonial Heights, VA

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Alive Ministries
Locust Grove, VA

Pastor Ross Gilfillen
Longwood Avenue Baptist
Bedford, VA

Pastor James Sumpter
Landmark Baptist Church
Richmond, VA

Pastor Dale Moore
Bluestone Independent Baptist
Clarksville, VA

Bishop Leon Benjamin
New Life Harvest Church
Richmond, VA

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Bethlehem Ind. Christian
Stanley, VA

Evangelist Paul Robellen
Appomattox, VA

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Harvest Ministries Baptist
Lynchburg, VA

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Fellowship Baptist Church
Oakton, VA

Pastor Sam Huntley
Gospel Baptist Church
Salem, VA

Pastor Phil Philips
Triumph Baptist Church
Warrenton, VA

Pastor Van Ness
Calvary Baptist Church
Ordinary, VA

Pastor Joshua Foote
Colonial Baptist Church
Barborsville, VA

Pastor Chris Cisler
Community Baptist Church
South Riding, VA

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Grace Baptist Church
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Pastor Joe Naylor
Baptist Church
Providence Forge, VA

Pastor Darren Jackson
Heritage Baptist Church
Chester, VA

Pastor Kurt Skelly
Faith Baptist Church
Fredericksburg, VA

Pastor Tim Wilcox
Choice Baptist Church
Fredericksburg, VA

Pastor Nathaniel Ensley
Blessed hope Baptist Church
Bracey, VA

Pastor Nelson Tindall
Calvary Hill Baptist Church
Arvonnia, VA

Pastor Brian Hudson
Jetersville Baptist Church
Jetersville, VA

Pastor Michael Huffman
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Mineral, VA

Pastor Arthur Lands
Southside Baptist Church
Petersburg, VA

Pastor Mark Mays
Grace Baptist Church
Harrisonburg, VA

Pastor Luke Benton
Immanuel Baptist Church
Clifton Forge, VA

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Smith Creek Baptist Church
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Front Royal, VA

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Bethel Baptist Church
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Pastor David DeMoss
Gateway Baptist Church
Chester, VA

Pastor Ely Guzman
Central Baptist Church
Waynesboro, VA

Pastor Philip Bishop
Lighthouse Baptist Church
Alexandria, VA

Pastor Roy Lee Trump
Grace Bible Church
Staunton, VA

Pastor Todd Abbey
Fairfax Baptist Temple
Fairfax, VA

Pastor B. J. Taylor
Holly Farms Road Baptist
Rice, VA

Pastor Tim Clark
Belle Meadows Baptist
Bristol, VA

Pastor Rader Ogden
Victory Baptist Church
Staunton, VA

Pastor Walter Daniel
Belfast Baptist Church
Crewe, VA

Pastor Dennis Nicely
Gospel Light Baptist Church
Covington, VA

Pastor Scot Jobe
Foundations Bible Baptist
Palmyra, VA

Pastor Philip Harper
First Calvary Baptist
Hampton, VA

Pastor Jeremiah Ketel
Anchor Baptist Church
Portsmouth, VA

Pastor Robert Gibson
Grace Bible Church
Gloucester, VA

Pastor David Morris
Calvary Baptist Church
Scottsville, VA

Pastor Dennis Foxx
Colonial Ind. Baptist Church
Williamsburg, VA

Pastor Don McClure
Ridgeview Baptist Church
Stuart's Draft, VA

Pastor Ben Webster
Newport News Baptist
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Pastor Don Karnes
Grace Baptist Church
Norfolk, VA

Dr. Jack Knapp
Retired Director of the Virginia
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Winchester, VA

Pastor Todd McClure
Centerville Baptist Church
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Pastor Joe Noreau
Sweet Haven Baptist Church
Portsmouth, VA

Pastor Mike Morisi
Family Foundation
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Rev. Joe Ellison, Jr.
Director of Community
Engagement for the Lt. Gov.

Rev. Bill Cook
Founder / CEO
America's Black Robe Regiment

Faith Wins America is a multi-state, faith-based 501(c)(4) organization, founded in 2023, serving as the legislative arm of the broader Faith Wins initiative. Committed to bridging the gap between faith communities and the legislative process, the organization strategically mobilizes pastors to actively engage in shaping state-level legislation. By establishing a network of pastors committed to civic engagement, Faith Wins America envisions a grassroots movement capable of influencing legislative decisions at both local and national levels. Faith Wins America does not endorse candidates for public office. Donations are not tax deductible.

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