



PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE AT 1:30 PM
Thursday, July 12, 2010**

Family Council Hosts Press Conference on Lottery Ticket Vending Machines

At 1:30 p.m. today, Family Council President Jerry Cox held a press conference at the Arkansas State Capitol Building in the Rotunda.

Cox discussed his group's involvement in the Lottery Commission's public comment period on the lottery ticket vending machines, revealing that Family Council had received 1,164 comments in opposition to the machines and only 31 in support of them. These comments were gathered from an online form set up at FamilyCouncil.org about three weeks ago. At the end of the press conference, he revealed his group's next move—calling for a public hearing on the machines that the Lottery Commission will be obligated to hold.

“About an hour ago, we delivered letters to the Arkansas Lottery Commission asking for a public hearing on the lottery ticket vending machines,” Cox said. “Arkansas law says that if at least 25 people submit letters asking for a public hearing during a public comment period, a public hearing must be held to give citizens an opportunity to voice their opinions.”

Cox said his group is looking forward to a public hearing in which a full discussion on the pros and cons of lottery ticket vending machines can take place. “It will be up to the Arkansas Lottery Commission to notify us and the general public as to the time and place of the meeting,” Cox said.

Earlier in the press conference, Cox discussed the results of Family Council's initiative to gather public comments.

Cox said, “An overwhelming number of those who responded indicate that they oppose the sale of lottery tickets through vending machines. In fact, over 97% of people using our online comment form at our website indicated that they oppose lottery ticket vending machines. 1,164 people oppose the machines and only 31 support them.”

“At 2:30 p.m. today, we plan to hand-deliver all these public comments to the Arkansas Lottery Commission,” Cox said. “I hope the commission will take a hard look at these comments and make the best decision for Arkansas. Lottery machines will increase underage gambling and entice gambling addicts to gamble even more. As I've said before, it is illegal to sell cigarettes or beer out of vending machines. It should be illegal to sell lottery tickets out of vending machines as well.”

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Family Council is a conservative education and research organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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