



Concerned Women for America
Legislative Action Committee

Opposition to HB 118, the *Fantasy Contests Act* Talking Points

- **Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS) is an expansion of predatory gambling.** If HB 118 is passed in Georgia, it will expand online gambling into every living room, dorm room and smart phone in the state. According to Les Barnel of Stop Predatory Gambling, “fantasy sports are predatory, deceptive, and illegal, and are also heavily targeted at luring a whole new generation of young people into gambling and getting them hooked.”ⁱ Last year alone, there was a \$10 million nationwide lobbying campaign to pass legislation that would regulate (thus legitimize) DFS by commercial gambling interests, involving 78 lobbyists in 34 states.ⁱⁱ
- **Gambling operators openly admit that DFS is gambling,** refuting the claims of DFS proponents who claim it is a game of skill, not chance.
 - At the November 2015 Savannah Study Committee on Casinos and Horse Racing, Keith Smith, the CEO of Boyd Gaming Corp., said this about DFS, “This is a form of gambling. I am not opposed to daily fantasy sports, but I am opposed to unregulated forms of gambling.”ⁱⁱⁱ
 - MGM Casinos Chairman Jim Murren, who is pushing casinos in Georgia, said those who argue that daily fantasy games are not gambling are “absolutely, utterly wrong. I don’t know how to run a football team, but I do know how to run a casino, and this is gambling.”^{iv}
 - The CEO of major sports book operator William Hill U.S., Joe Asher, said this of DFS, “You put up of something of value, cash, to win something of value, cash. It’s the classic definition of gambling ... any suggestion that (fantasy sports) is not gambling is the biggest bunch of baloney I’ve ever seen.”^v
- **“Fantasy sports constitutes illegal gambling and are not allowed under Georgia law”** was the informal advice given in 2016 to the Georgia Lottery Commission by then State Attorney General Sam Olens, when the Commission asked Olens whether fantasy sports games were illegal under Georgia law.^{vi}
- **Daily Fantasy Sports is locking arms with the porn industry to build its membership base.** One news journalist said it this way: “It’s a marriage of two of the oldest “vice” businesses, porn and gambling, in a new digital realm.”^{vii} According to Bloomberg News, DraftDay, a daily fantasy operator owned by MGT Capital Investments, has partnered with Vivid Entertainment, one of the world’s largest pornographic film companies because DFS is proving to be unsustainable as a standalone gambling game.^{viii} It only costs about \$50 in marketing and advertising to draw a customer to a porn site, much less than what is spent in the DFS world.^{ix}

“We are deeply excited about working with a synergistic partner like Vivid. As over 80 percent of fantasy sports players are males with a mean age of 34 years, the demographics show we are addressing the same audience,” MGT CEO Robert Ladd said in a statement. “The Vivid brand has been in existence for 30 years, and this partnership offers a dynamic opportunity for millions of Vivid fans to test their skill in the daily fantasy sports world.”^x

ⁱ <http://www.ncfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/FNC-Spring2016-DailyFantasySports.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/fantasy-sports-industry-mounts-lobbying-blitz-1455585446>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-lawmakers-told-regulate-daily-fantasy-sports/wBSHtx6iONCDViUDaGQttl/>

^{iv} <http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/casinos-gaming/gambling-or-game-skill-debate-swirls-over-fantasy-sports>

^v *ibid.*

^{vi} <http://concernedwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/GA-AG-Statement-Fantasy-Sport-2-29-16.pdf>

^{vii} <http://venturebeat.com/2014/12/30/porn-sports-and-gambling-adult-entertainment-company-vivid-teams-up-with-draftday-owner-for-daily-fantasy-sports/>

^{viii} <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-19/porn-giant-vivid-wants-to-rescue-daily-fantasy-sports>

^{ix} *ibid.*

^x <http://venturebeat.com/2014/12/30/porn-sports-and-gambling-adult-entertainment-company-vivid-teams-up-with-draftday-owner-for-daily-fantasy-sports/>