



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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**WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION TO LEGISLATORS:
DAILY FANTASY SPORTS IS GAMBLING**
“You can call a dog a cat, but it’s still a dog.”

Madison – “I can declare that a dog is a cat and that doesn’t change the truth or the reality—even if I dress the dog up like a cat. It’s still a dog,” declared Wisconsin Family Action president Julaine Appling in a public hearing yesterday.

The Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations held a hearing Wednesday on a bill, [Assembly Bill 800](#), that goes to great lengths to try to convince people that gambling is not gambling. The bill blatantly declares that Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS) is not gambling and creates a means to legalize the games and regulate them, ostensibly for “consumer protection” reasons.

Appling commented, “We know gambling when we see it. Daily Fantasy Sports is gambling. It has all the components of gambling including a person making a wager, cash prizes and chance. Proponents tried to say DFS is a game of skill, not chance. By that definition, then betting on horse races and poker are games of skill too, not games of chance.”

Wisconsin Family Action opposes the bill because it will lead to an incredible expansion of gambling in Wisconsin. Gambling too often becomes addictive, creating problem gamblers, which inevitably leads to harming Wisconsin’s best natural resource—her families.

“Dealing with DFS is a nationwide issue right now. In the last 3 months, Illinois, Vermont, Texas, Nevada, Hawai’i and New York have determined that DFS is indeed gambling and therefore is illegal in those states based on their laws. As more states become aware of what this industry and the games really are, they are taking a closer look. We need to do the same. This bill was introduced this past Monday with a public hearing held just two days later. Too much is at stake to rush a bill of this magnitude through in the closing weeks of this legislative session,” said Appling.

Wisconsin Family Action asked the committee to act responsibly and stand down on this bill. The organization recommended that Wisconsin’s Attorney General be asked for an opinion on the legality of the proposal in light of the state’s constitution and existing statutes.

“Passing this bill will mean gambling in Wisconsin will be as available 24-7. It’s as near as a smart phone or a tablet. Rather than legalizing, regulating and embracing DFS, we should declare it illegal under Wisconsin law. Let’s quit trying to dress this dog up like a cat and calling it a cat. It’s a dog. The best consumer protection is to stop this expansion of gambling in its tracks,” concluded Appling.

WFA’s full testimony is available [here](#).

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Wisconsin Family Action is a statewide, not-for-profit organization actively strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and liberty in Wisconsin.