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## New anti-casino group rallies at Kentucky Capitol

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FRANKFORT, Ky. — About 30 people rallied in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday to announce the launch of Stop Predatory Gambling Kentucky, a group opposed to casino-style wagering sponsored by the state.

Members of the group said they fear efforts like those of House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, to pay for pension reform using new online lottery games and taking tax money from the slot-like Instant Racing game in use at two tracks. That measure appears dead, but members of the new group say they fear those ideas — or casinos — being brought up in the final days of the legislature, in a special session or next year.

“When government engages in becoming a predator against its citizens, that’s an inappropriate way to fund government,” said John-Mark Hack, the group’s board chairman and former head of Say No to Casinos.

Hack said the group is not opposed to all forms of gambling, such as neighborhood poker games or traditional wagering on live horse racing. But he said the group takes issue with Instant Racing, which allows betting on previously run races.

The legality of the game is the subject of a court case before the Kentucky Supreme Court. Stumbo’s pension funding bill included language that might have made the court case moot by defining Instant Racing as pari-mutuel gambling.

The Family Foundation of Kentucky, which is opposing racetracks and the state in the court case, argues that Instant Racing is an illegal slot machine.