Les Bernal

Les Bernal is the Executive Director of Stop Predatory Gambling, a national transpartisan coalition of more than 500,000 citizens and groups from diverse backgrounds, religious faiths, political convictions, and life circumstances based in Washington, DC.

SPG is dedicated to a fundamental national reform- an America where no taxpayer dollar is used by government to lure citizens into gambling away their money and becoming slaves to debt; where no agency or entity of government depends on gambling to fund its activities; and where no legislature passes laws to promote, sponsor, or enable gambling in the name of economic development or raising government revenue.

Les has spoken and written extensively about how government's experiment with gambling has failed and why it is time to get government out of the gambling business so we can pursue a fairer, healthier and more hopeful vision of the path to American prosperity. He has appeared on national television and radio including *60 Minutes* during its expose of slot machines in January 2011, *CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, Piers Morgan Tonight, National Public Radio* and *The BBC*. He has been interviewed by national newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, The Los Angeles Times* and *The Boston Globe*. He has also spoken before dozens of business organizations, college audiences and faith groups across the nation.

Prior to joining the national movement, Les served as a Chief of Staff in the Massachusetts State Senate and worked as a campaign strategist for more than forty federal and state campaigns. He is also a former college and high school basketball coach, founder of the Robert Frost Foundation in Lawrence, Massachusetts- the hometown of America's favorite poet – and a past chairman of the city's Planning Board.

Les graduated from Ithaca College with a B.A. in English and earned a M.P.A. from Suffolk University.