

# WORTH NOTING | Bowling for ethics

**W**hy wait until the Legislature goes into session for lawmakers to prove they are serious about ethics reform? They can start by giving up one of their most cherished, and lucrative, perks: two free Iron Bowl tickets.

Every year, the host university gives away hundreds of tickets with a parking pass to the Alabama-Auburn football game to lawmakers, constitutional officers and other state officials. This gift is usually worth hundreds of dollars, and although

the state Ethics Commission says it is legal, it shouldn't be.

Public officials shouldn't receive this kind of personal gain, particularly from state-supported universities whose budgets they approve.

Jim Metrock, president of children's advocacy group Obligation Inc., since last year's game at Auburn has badgered state officials and officials at the University of Alabama (the host school this year) to instead send the tickets to children's char-

ities for fundraising. Others, Metrock said, have suggested giving the tickets to wounded soldiers.

Either is a far better use than state officials receiving a benefit they shouldn't. Gov.-elect Robert Bentley and the new Republican leadership should give up their tickets. They can put pressure on other state officials to do so and set the tone for ethics reform.

They will, if they truly believe in ethics reform.