

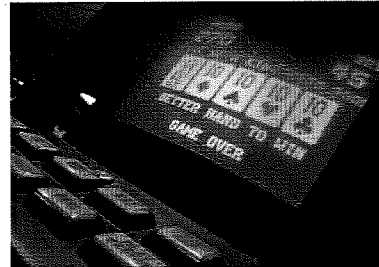


ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

April 17, 2014

Gambling Update - Chicago Casino Hearing



A House Executive Committee hearing on the massive gambling expansion bill (SB 1739) was held in Chicago yesterday. The morning hearing focused on Amendment 3 for a Chicago casino, owned by the State, with revenue split 50/50 with the City. The casino could have between 4,000 and 10,000 gambling positions--more than any other casino. [Read more:](#)

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce noted the **State could spend \$900 Million to build the Chicago casino**, but the City would not get its half of the profits until the money was repaid from earnings. [Read more:](#)

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce wants a Chicago casino built in the heart of the city. They suggested locating the casino in the James R. Thompson Center, the Congress Hotel, the top three floors of Macy's (formerly Marshall Fields), or in Block 37. **"When the city and state become the house, they're no longer protecting the people,"** said Rev. Dr. Phil Blackwell, pastor of First United Methodist Church, located in Block 37. [Read more:](#)

The focus of the afternoon hearing was on Amendment 4 to SB 1739, which includes a massive Chicago casino, three additional land-based casinos, and 5 racetrack casinos. [Read more:](#)

Gov. Pat Quinn and Mayor Rahm Emanuel have joined **Republican governor candidate Bruce Rauner in declining to weigh in on the merits of the legislation.** [Read more:](#)

Columnist Mark Brown wrote, the odds may finally favor a Chicago casino if Speaker Madigan is working out the deal. [Read more:](#)

We are thankful to the grassroots activists and ministers who attended and testified at the hearing. Thank you to all of you who e-mailed the sponsor and signed witness slips opposing SB 1739.

Have a Blessed Easter!

Casinos increase Crime

[Watch the video](#) of a Palos-Heights man who was robbed and shot in his home after winning a jackpot at the Hammond casino.

One reason to oppose a Chicago casino is that crime increases in casino communities. Last year there were 400 homicides in Chicago. [Look closely at the violence tearing at the fabric of Chicago.](#) Since 2002 there have been 5,000 people murdered in Chicago. That's more

than were killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack and more than the number of U.S. casualties in Iraq since 2003.

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