



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

**May 6, 2016**

## **Gambling Alert & Update Keep up the calls to Legislators**



**HB 335 to make Internet gambling on horse racing permanent will be heard in the Senate next week.** Call your Senator and ask him/her to Vote NO.

Rich Miller wrote about **the difficulty of passing a gambling bill** in Capitol Fax. It requires "all four leaders and the governor to pull hard in the same direction at once." He told about **some of the other obstacles, including "the anti-gambling folks, who will fight every step of the way"**.

The Fantasy Sports gambling lobby paid for an advertisement on Capitol Fax asking for support for HB 4323.

### **Horsemen Want In On Gaming Conversation**

State Rep. Mike Zalewski, D-Riverside, said he understands that Illinois' horseracing industry wants video gambling at racetracks. But he said **lawmakers don't want to hear "what's in it for me."**

Tony Simone, executive director of the Illinois' Harness Horsemen's Association, said **if fantasy sports can get legal recognition, the Horsemen's Association should get slots or video poker machines** at its tracks and off-track betting sites.

... But **Zalewski**, who is shepherding fantasy-sports regulations in the General Assembly, **said it's not his job to make sure everyone gets a piece of the action.** [Read more](#)

## Arlington Park focuses on entertainment, continues to push for slots

Arlington International Racecourse has reinvented itself to stay viable as interest in horse racing has declined, track executives say, but they **believe gaming is necessary to the track's eventual survival**. "We have had to reinvent ourselves and change from being a racing company to an entertainment company," said General Manager Tony Petrillo.

... While it is up to Springfield to allow increased gaming at Arlington Park, the topic has not even come up in the last few years because of the ongoing budget crisis in Illinois. [Read more](#)

**We must remain vigilant**, keep up the calls to your Legislators, and ask others to call. Legislators need to hear from their constituents, especially since they will be asking you for your vote in November.

### FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Call your State State Senator (217-782-2000, Capitol Switchboard) and ask him/her to Vote NO on HB 335** and all gambling expansion bills.
2. **Call your State Representative and tell him/her NO MORE GAMBLING.**
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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