



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

March 8, 2018 Alcohol Action Alert

HB 494 - Allows Underage consumption of alcohol in restaurants



HB 494 has been amended three times. Once to add that children 18 and older could consume alcohol in a restaurant "under the direct supervision and approval of parents or persons standing in loco parentis of the person under the age of 21."

This week two more amendments were added, changing alcohol to "beer and wine", and changing who can supervise and approve of the underage drinking to "parents, grandparents, step parents, or legal guardian."

First of all, **beer and wine are still alcohol**. Secondly, **how will a restaurant know who if their customers are the parents, grandparents, step parents or legal guardians?**

The Jacksonville Journal Courier published a good editorial on this proposed law, [Change in drinking law wrong message to send out to teens](#).

The idea for the bill comes from Wisconsin, where children as young as 15 can have a beer or glass of wine if parents are present. Wisconsin has the highest number of binge drinkers, and Wisconsin residents are more likely to drive while intoxicated. "Perhaps it's not the best role model when it comes to drinking laws," the editorial states.

The minimum drinking age of 21 was established to protect the health and safety of young people and to safeguard the public. Research shows minimum legal drinking age laws have had positive effects primarily in decreasing traffic crashes and fatalities, suicide, binge drinking, and decreased consumption of alcohol by those under the age of 21.

Read more:

[National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Contact your [State Representative](#)** and ask him/her to Oppose and Vote NO on HB 494.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to CALL.
3. **Forward** to 10 others.