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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

May 17, 2016

Gambling Action Alert Gambling expansion on the table



A bipartisan group of legislators came together, and last week presented the governor and legislative leaders with a menu of options for getting to a balanced budget. One of those legislators, Senator Donne Trotter, said, **"Also on the table is that old standby of looking at the possibility of bringing gaming, or to expand gaming here in the state of Illinois,"** Sunday on WGN radio's "Sunday Spin" program, Capitol Fax reported. Listen to the program

A casino to help fund Chicago pensions?

The governor is getting mixed signals from two police groups about a pension bill, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported. "Police and fire supported the bill because **another bill was supposed to be introduced allowing a casino to be built in Chicago. And the casino proceeds would go into the police and fire pensions until they were 90 percent funded,**" the newsletter from the retired officers' group states. But for some strange reason, **Sen. Cullerton sent the bill to the governor for his signature, without a casino bill.** Read more

Chicago municipal workers are pitching state lawmakers on proposals to shore up their pension fund by dramatically increasing the amount of taxpayer money going into it, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. Where would the money come from? **A Chicago casino**, which still doesn't exist despite two decades of city efforts. It's the same money machine Emanuel is eyeing for the police and fire pension funds.

Even with a casino, the city would have to cut spending, raise

hundreds of millions of more dollars each year or both to make the contributions required under each of the payment schedules under four different versions of the municipal workers' plan. [Read more](#)

Gambling is an unstable source of revenue that has not and cannot solve the state's budget problems. With 2 weeks to go in the scheduled spring Legislative Session, please call the Governor and your State Legislators.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Call your [State Senator](#) and [State Representative](#)** (217-782-2000 capitol switchboard) to ask them to oppose ALL bills that expand gambling--Internet Lottery (SB 531) , Instant Racing Machines (slots) at race tracks (SB 2216), Advance Deposit Wagering (HB 335) , video gambling at OTBs (HB 940) and distilleries (HB 4325), Fantasy Sports (HB 4323), a Chicago Casino, and more casinos.
2. **[Contact the Governor](#)** (217-782-6830) to tell him **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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