



## Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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### Video Gambling in Neighborhoods Will Increase Addiction

Many local officials in cities and towns statewide have been voting to "opt out," retain or overturn existing ordinances that prohibit gambling in alcohol facilities. Gambling interests and those that would profit from the gambling machines are pressuring mayors, city council members, and village trustees to act quickly to legalize video gambling.

Video gambling will impact the entire community, whether you gamble or not. Video terminal operators and establishments split 70 cents of every \$1 lost, while the State receives a quarter, and the local community receives a nickel. Residents will have to gamble and LOSE \$20 on the video gambling machines for the community to receive \$1 in revenue. Some will lose their entire paychecks.

Gambling comes with a myriad of social costs, including addiction, bankruptcy, crime, family problems, and suicide. Video gambling is often called the "crack cocaine" of gambling because of the speed of addiction. People can place a bet every one or two seconds and lose \$150 an hour.

Legalizing video gambling machines in neighborhood bars, family restaurants, pizza parlors, bowling alleys, airports, golf courses, truck stops, fraternal and veterans facilities will increase problem and pathological gambling. People will gamble more frequently when the gambling machines are more accessible and legal, with some gambling several times a week or daily.

In South Carolina there was a 400 percent increase in the number of gamblers anonymous groups when video gambling machines were legalized, and 20 percent of the people who gambled on the machines were probable pathological gamblers.

**Video gambling is tied to problem gambling in women.** A study published in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry found that playing video gambling in bars and restaurants was associated with the highest odds of problem gambling among women.

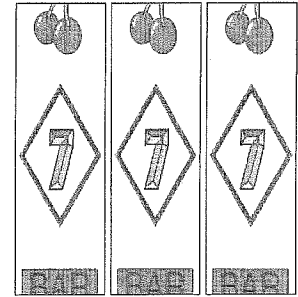
**Problem and pathological gambling rates are high among veterans.** The Department of Veterans Affairs found 8 percent of U. S. veterans are problem gamblers, and an additional 2 percent are pathological gamblers. People who have more post traumatic symptoms, anxiety, and depression tend to have more gambling problems.

**Problem drinkers are 23 times likely to have a gambling problem** than individuals with no alcohol problem. The rate of pathological gambling is significantly **higher among minorities and lower-income individuals.**

The Illinois Gaming Board will track the money gambled in the machines, but they will not physically be present in establishments to prevent underage gambling or alcohol impaired patrons from gambling.

Grassroots activists and pastors are speaking out at city council and village board meetings in support of a ban on video gambling. Voters in Belleville, Coal City, Collinsville, Geneseo, Glen Carbon, Winfield, and Wood Dale will decide the issue of video gambling on the November ballot. Other communities can overturn video gambling by circulating petitions to put a referendum on the ballot during the municipal elections in 2013.

Get involved to oppose video gambling in your community. The cost is too high.



## Legislative Highlights



### **Governor Vetos Gambling Expansion – Deal Could Be Worked Out in January**

Governor Quinn vetoed SB 1849, a massive expansion bill that included a city owned casino in Chicago, land-based casinos in Rockford, Danville, Park City, and south suburbs of Chicago. SB 1849 also legalized video and slot machines at six race-tracks, transforming them into land-based casinos. SB 1849 included expansion at the existing 10 casinos, and appropriated money to allow betting on harness races at all County Fairs.

There could be a deal on gambling expansion in January 2013. "I really feel we will address this issue and hopefully resolve it by the 9th of January, which is the deadline for this session of the General Assembly," Governor Pat Quinn said in interview with CBS News in St. Louis.

The governor said any bill must include strong ethics and oversight. The governor also said there should be dedicated funding from gambling proceeds for education.

The Lottery did not solve the problems of funding for education, and neither will a massive expansion of casino gambling. Contact Governor Quinn (800-642-3112) to thank him for vetoing SB 1849 and ask him not to cut a deal on gambling expansion.

### **Gambling Legislation Signed Into Law**

**SB 3497 – Internet Powerball Sales** Internet Lottery was expanded in August to include the sale of Powerball tickets. The pilot program for Internet Lottery included only Lotto and Mega Millions tickets, which accounted for 25 percent of Lottery sales. Look for the Lottery to continue to expand on the Internet, with the goal of approving the sale of scratch off tickets online.

**SB 3779 – Advanced Deposit Wagering** Advanced Deposit Wagering makes gambling accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by allowing bets to be placed on horse racing from any location via a telephone-type device or any other electronic means--cell phone, computer.

The U. S. Department of Justice opinion of 2010 only applies to state lotteries and said sports betting on the Internet is illegal. SB 3779 extends Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) until 2013. More extensions will follow.

**HB 4320 – "Entertainment Only" video machines** The prize limit was increased on "entertainment only" video game machines to \$25. The definition was also broadened to legalize electronic video game machines as "entertainment only" devices.

### **Alcohol Legislation Signed into Law**

**SB 758 – Sip and Spit** SB 758 allows 18, 19, and 20 year old underage students-- who pursue a degree from a college or post secondary education institution in food service, restaurant management, or culinary arts--to put alcohol in their mouths and taste, but not swallow in a class setting on campus. The law will allow alcohol tastings to occur up to six times per class.

Drivers under 21 caught driving with even a

trace of alcohol in their system will lose their driver's licenses. If students should swallow the alcohol instead of spitting it out, they could lose their driver's license if they are in an accident or pulled over for a traffic violation.

Alcohol takes a greater toll on the brain development of those under 21 than on any other age group. Research has shown that alcohol use during the adolescent years is associated with damage to memory and learning capabilities as well as the decision-making and reasoning areas in the brain.

The earlier a person begins drinking, the greater the likelihood of having problems with alcohol. Alcohol is already a problem on college campuses. Changing the law to allow underage students to taste alcohol as a course requirement is disturbing.

### **HB 735 – Mayor can be licensed to sell, distribute, or manufacture alcohol**

For over 76 years Illinois prohibited mayors and village presidents, who are the local liquor commissioners, from manufacturing, selling, or distributing alcohol. This law was put in place to safeguard the citizens from situations ripe for corruption, and it has served the public well. It appears HB 735 was written for one man who wants to run for mayor of Niles. However, this law impacts all communities with a population of 50,000 or less.

If a mayor or village president has a license to sell, distribute, or manufacture alcohol, HB 735 requires the mayor or village president to direct the board or council to appoint a liquor commissioner. The mayor and village president are very influential in the community and with the village trustees. This is an inherent conflict of interest, and most communities cannot afford to pay additional costs for a lawyer to assume the duties of liquor commissioner.

### **HB 30 Legalizes Marijuana as Medicine**

Marijuana is one of the most misunderstood drugs of our time, according to Kevin Sabet, PhD, Policy Consultant and Assistant Professor, University of Florida. With 30 years of scientific study to draw from, Marijuana and Your Health: Just The Facts documents that marijuana use is significantly linked with addiction, heart and lung complications, mental illness, car crashes, IQ loss and poor school outcomes, poor quality of life. <http://www.drugfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Marijuana-and-Your-Health-Just-The-Facts-Part-I.pdf>

HB 30 to legalize marijuana as medicine could be called for a vote in the veto session. Call your state legislators and ask them to vote NO on HB 30.

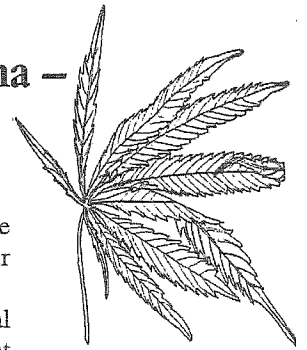
### **Join the Statewide Action Alert Network**

ILCAAAP sends out Action Alerts by e-mail or fax on gambling, alcohol, and marijuana issues. We ask that you contact the governor and elected officials to voice your concerns and that you share the Alert with your faith community and others. Join in the action by sending your e-mail address or fax number to [ilcaaap@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ilcaaap@sbcglobal.net) or call 866-940-6871.

### **2012 Veto Session**

The Veto Session is November 27-29 and December 4-5, 2012. Legislators will also come back in January to vote on controversial legislation.

## Commentary: Medical Marijuana – Time for Parents to Step In



To paraphrase a former First Lady, “What goes on in the White House is never as important as what goes on in your house.”

As the evidence mounts of the negative effects of medical marijuana laws in various states, it’s even more important for parents to recognize that marijuana needs to be on their parenting radar screen.

A Colorado study shows some of these impacts, where nearly 74 percent of a sample of teenagers receiving addiction treatment in that state told researchers they used medical marijuana that was recommended for someone else.

This news should be of no surprise because increased availability of marijuana is highly associated with increased use. Studies have shown that marijuana is not a safe, benign drug. It’s a highly addictive drug. When smoked it contributes to pulmonary damage. It significantly impairs judgment and is associated with poor performance in school. Its use has also been linked to contributions to impairment on important measures of life achievement, including physical and mental health, cognitive abilities, social life and career status.

Marijuana use is now more prevalent among teens than cigarette smoking. Marijuana smoke contains 50-70 percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than tobacco smoke. Moreover, the typical weed available to adolescents these days is so much more potent compared to the marijuana used by prior generations. This increased potency is particularly concerning in light of recent scientific findings that marijuana use deleteriously affects brain development, particularly in areas related to mood, reward, and learning.

Medical marijuana laws have made parents’ jobs tougher, no doubt about it. Although the provisions of the statutes differ, as of early July medical marijuana statutes had been signed into law in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

Parents are a mighty lobbying force – at the local, state and national levels – particularly when they act in groups. We are not suggesting that parents shouldn’t try to influence government at any one of these levels.

But because governments move slowly and not always in everyone’s best interests, parents can (and should) influence what goes on in their households. Science will continue to inform the public and seek solutions. But as the constant in a child’s life – with protective instincts that can be brought out by science but not replaced – it’s the parents who are the first lines of defense for their children.

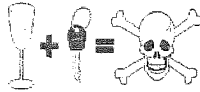
**Ken C. Winters, PhD & Amelia Arria, PhD**

*Dr. Winters is the Associate Director, Dr. Arria the Scientific Director, of the Parents Translational Research Center (PTRC) of the Philadelphia-based Treatment Research Institute. The PTRC is a NIDA-funded center dedicated to developing practical, science-based tools for parents and other caregivers faced with challenges related to adolescent substance abuse.*

*Reprinted from Join Together September 11, 2012*

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### More than Half of Fatal Car Crashes Involve Alcohol & Drugs

A new study shows 57 percent of fatal car crashes involve a driver who tested positive for alcohol or drugs. Alcohol was the most common substance detected, followed by marijuana and stimulants, Reuters reports.

One in five of the 20,150 fatally injured drivers between 2005 and 2009 had multiple substances in their system at the time of the accident. Men and people driving at night were the most likely to have used alcohol or drugs, according to the study.

*Reprinted with permission from Join Together September 7, 2012*

### Moderate Alcohol Consumption increases risk of heart disorder

Moderate alcohol consumption increases the risk of atrial fibrillation in older people with heart disease or advanced diabetes, according to a study by McMaster University researchers. Atrial fibrillation, or an irregular heartbeat, is a concern because it increases the risk of stroke.

The report said that since moderate drinking is common for more than a third of the population, these findings suggest the effect of increased alcohol consumption, even in moderate amounts, on atrial fibrillation risk in patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease may be considerable.

*Press release from McMaster University, Canada, October 1, 2012*

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#### Mini Poster

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#### Book Mark

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