



December 15, 2016

Alcohol & Drug Alert
Ask Gov. to Veto HB 950 and Investigative Report

Chicago Alderman indicted

Alderman Willie Cochran (20th Ward) was indicted and **accused of extorting money in exchange for supporting** two real estate projects and **a liquor store in his ward**. [Read more](#)

According to the [indictment](#), the alderman corruptly solicited and demanded, and accepted \$3,000 in cash from an individual who wanted to sell his liquor store to a buyer who would require a package goods license.

Implications for House Bill 950

The General Assembly passed HB 950 in the final days of the Veto Session to allow the sale of alcohol closer than 100 from a church and school in Chicago. **Support from Ward Alderman was required.** *(NOTE: These exemptions were not written for Alderman Cochran's Ward.)*

Unlike other exemptions passed by the General Assembly, **in section (rrr) there is only a requirement for written support from the Ward Alderman and no requirement of written support from the Pastor, school, or principal.** Does the principal or pastor even know that a new liquor license is being proposed near their school and that an exemption is needed to allow the sale of alcohol? Are the parents aware that an exemption was rushed through in the final hours of the Veto Session with the support of the Ward Alderman?

HB 950 appears to be another "special deal" pushed through at the end of session for a Chicago Alderman and a retail liquor establishment. The inside rules used in this bill could be viewed as a corruption of the system and sets precedent for more exemptions near churches and schools.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Contact the Governor** and ask him to Veto HB 950 and require more transparency before making exemptions to the Illinois Liquor Control Act. [E-Mail](#) or Call: 217-782-6830 or 312-814-2121.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community.
3. **Forward** to 10 others.

Investigative report that might be of interest to you:**Pharmacies miss more than half of dangerous drug combinations**

In the largest and most comprehensive study of its kind, the Tribune tested 255 pharmacies to see how often stores would dispense dangerous drug pairs without warning patients. Fifty-two percent of the pharmacies sold the medications without mentioning the potential interaction, striking evidence of an industrywide failure that places millions of consumers at risk. [Read more](#)

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems,
1132 West Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62702

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