



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Alcohol Consumption AGE Alert - March 23, 2023



Illinois [HB4021](#) is a proposed bill that seeks to lower the legal drinking age from 21 to 18 years in Illinois.

### Underage Drinking and Its Consequences

Underage drinking is a significant problem in the United States, and Illinois is no exception. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, underage drinking accounts for more than 4,300 deaths annually. It contributes to various problems, including drunk driving accidents, sexual assaults, and violent crimes. Lowering the drinking age to 18 would undoubtedly exacerbate these problems. The fact remains that 18-year-olds are not yet mature enough to handle the drinking responsibilities.

### Risks to Health and Development

The human brain does not fully develop until the mid-20s and alcohol consumption can significantly impact brain development. Research has shown that heavy drinking during adolescence can impair brain function and lead to various health problems, including memory loss, depression, and anxiety. Lowering the drinking age to 18 would put more young people at risk of developing these problems.

Additionally, alcohol is a known carcinogen, and consumption at any age increases the risk of developing certain types of cancer. Allowing 18-year-olds to purchase and consume alcohol legally would increase their exposure to this dangerous substance and put their long-term health at risk.

## Negative Impact on Society

Lowering the drinking age to 18 would also harm society as a whole. In addition to the increased risk of drunk driving accidents and other alcohol-related incidents, allowing younger people to consume alcohol legally would likely lead to increased alcohol-related healthcare costs, lower productivity in the workforce, and other societal problems.

Furthermore, lowering the drinking age would tell young people that alcohol consumption is acceptable and encouraged. This message could harm their attitudes toward alcohol and lead to a culture of binge drinking and other risky behaviors.

### Conclusion

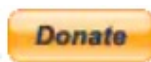
In conclusion, lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18 in Illinois would have a range of adverse effects on society. It would increase the risk of drunk driving accidents, health problems, and other alcohol-related incidents. For these reasons, Illinois [HB4021](#) should be opposed.

\*This could also have ramifications for lowering the age for gambling in Illinois.

### ***For Immediate Action*** **Contact your [Legislators](#)**

- Share this Alert with your faith community.
- Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)



---

[www.ilcaaap.org](http://www.ilcaaap.org)  
1132 W Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 60702

STAY CONNECTED

