



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Alcohol Alert - May 11, 2021



The [U. S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform](#) will vote tomorrow, May 13, on [H. R. 2517](#) to remove the prohibition on shipping alcohol through the mail.

Allowing the post office to ship alcohol will:

- **Increase alcohol access to those under 21**, underage drinking and harm.
- **Increase the potential for unsafe, counterfeit and unregulated alcohol**
- **Undermine the three-tier system of alcohol control** that provides public health and safety protections and safeguards.
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**IL representatives serving on the committee: [Raja Krishnamoorthi](#)
[Danny Davis](#) (202) 225-5006, and [Robin Kelly](#), (202) 225-0773.**

Rep. Michael Zalewski introduced HB 4078 to allow bars and restaurants to give a free alcoholic drink to someone who gets a COVID vaccination. **Read**

During the pandemic, **one study** found rates of alcohol consumption in spring, 2020 increased 14% and drinkers consumed nearly 30% more than in pre-pandemic months.

Enticing young people with a free alcoholic drink at a bar as a reward for getting a COVID vacation is a bad idea. Some drinkers would not stop with one free drink, and binge drinking and heavy drinking could increase.

What doctors recommend:

- In the UK, experts recently **advised people to avoid drinking alcohol in the days leading up to and after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine**. "You need to have your immune system working tip-top to have a good response to the vaccine, so if you're drinking the

night before, or shortly afterwards, that's not going to help," Sheena Cruickshank, PhD, an immunologist at the University of Manchester, told [UK Metro](#).

The developer of the Sputnik V vaccine **advised refraining from alcohol for three days after each injection.**

Doctors we spoke to **advise against drinking alcohol immediately after receiving the shot.** [Read](#)

- Christopher Thompson, PhD, who specializes in immunology and microbiology, **warns that excessive alcohol use should be avoided around time of vaccination.** [Read](#)
- **The CDC does warn that people may experience a more intense reaction after receiving a second dose.** Side effects, which include fever and chills, can be more pronounced after the second dose. **These symptoms can be more intense if one has been drinking.** [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your [U. S. Representative](#) and ask him/her to OPPOSE H. R. 2517 that removes the prohibition of shipping alcohol through the postoffice.
2. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and ask them to OPPOSE HB 4078 that allows bars to give free alcoholic drinks to adults who get vaccinated.
3. Share this Alert with your faith community.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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