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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - March 25, 2022



Lightfoot accused of ‘stacking the deck’ on Chicago casino committee

After cutting the list of potential sites to three, Lightfoot rammed through a resolution creating a special committee led by Zoning Committee Chairman Tom Tunney (44th) with soup-to-nuts jurisdiction over “all matters within the jurisdiction of the City related to the establishment of the casino.” [Read](#)

Casino will hurt, not help, Chicago Casinos are regressive institutions that extract wealth from those who can’t afford it, funding the government on their backs and enriching big corporations

I am highly concerned about the proposed Chicago casino, which will have disastrous social costs, harm marginalized communities, extract wealth from local neighborhoods and fail to live up to expectations about economic impact. It is yet another instance of wealthy corporations convincing government officials to allow them to exploit everyday people through rosy projections of job creation and tax revenue.

Building more casinos increases pathological gambling, and the likelihood of being a problem gambler or pathological gambler doubles near a casino. I’ve talked with multiple Chinatown leaders deeply concerned about a casino being placed in such close proximity, and Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez has expressed concern about a casino in his ward.

[Read](#)

A Gonzaga Star's Casino Ads Show How Much College Sports Has Changed in a Year

The commercials featuring Bulldogs big man Drew Timme mark a new phase in the leveraging of college athletes' images. The NCAA, pushed by state legislators and federal courts, last summer dropped its longtime ban on athletes profiting from their name, image or likeness. The casino campaign featuring Timme, one of the most recognizable players in college sports, veers straight toward another of the NCAA's longtime taboos: betting on sports. The casino ads don't explicitly promote gambling on sports—or on Gonzaga—but they're a sharp pivot away from the NCAA's warnings about the dangers of gambling. [Read](#)

Sports Betting Brings Tax Windfall – And a Surge in Problem Gambling

Since opening up to sports betting in 2019, Illinois has rapidly emerged as one of the top gaming markets in the nation. Last year alone Illinois residents wagered \$7.1 billion according to the Illinois Gaming Board. Now, just in time for March Madness, Illinois has dropped an in-person registration requirement for sports bettors — making it even easier to gamble using online apps. But the expansion of gambling is not without cost. Treatment service providers who work with those with gambling disorders say they have seen a spike in people seeking help with gambling addiction. [Read](#)

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