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Judiciary Chair: Impeachment Extreme But This Is Extreme

Steve Miller Reporting

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CHICAGO (WBBM) - Now that Gov. Rod Blagojevich is charged with corruption, the question is "what next?"

The talk among legislators is about impeachment and of taking power away from the governor to fill the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by President-elect Barack Obama.

The North Side representative who's chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, John Fritchey, says he believes impeachment should be reserved for extreme circumstances, but he says, we're there.

"The governor could resign. He could take a temporary leave, saying he has an incapacity and inability to do the job, and have that job filled by the lieutenant governor.

"The attorney general could move to have him declared unfit to do the job right now. So there are a number of options, all of them are being studied."

Fritchey says he will introduce a bill Monday to take power away from Governor Blagojevich to appoint a U.S. Senator - and hold a special election.

A bill taking power away from the governor would first have to land on his desk for him to sign. If he were to veto it, lawmakers could override the veto.

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