



THE WHOLESALE BEER AND WINE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

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House Bill 522
Ohio House Committee on Government Accountability and Oversight
Representative Louis Blessing II, Chairman
March 21, 2017

Proponent Testimony of the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio
Jacob C. Evans, Counsel for Legislative Affairs

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke and Ranking Minority Member Clyde, on behalf of Ohio's beer and wine wholesale distributors, I appreciate the opportunity to express their support for House Bill 522. My name is Jacob Evans and I serve as Counsel for Legislative Affairs with the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio (WBWAO). The members of the WBWAO are family owned beer and wine wholesale distributors, many in their third or fourth generation of family leadership, and collectively, they employ roughly 5,000 Ohioans.

House Bill 522 simply allows for charitable organizations to participate in the designated outdoor refreshment areas created by the General Assembly in 2015. HB 47 from the 131st General Assembly created these areas, known as designated outdoor refreshment areas or DORAs, to allow patrons to bring alcohol beverages from a designated liquor permit holder into a public area defined by the local municipality. At the time of creating these DORAs, the issue of allowing a temporary permit holder (a charitable organization) to participate in the DORA was never considered. HB 522 corrects this issue.

Several of my members have been contacted by local organizations asking questions about DORAs and why they can not participate. As these organizations are charitable organizations raising money, it only seems to make sense that the General Assembly would be supportive of their efforts. Furthermore, these temporary permits are issued only after written sign off by local law enforcement.

We would respectfully request the approval of HB 522 as provides parity for charitable organizations that are seeking to participate in DORAs created by local authorities.

Thank you very much for your time and I would be happy to try to answer any questions.