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Proponent testimony for House Bill 219, The SALES Act (Sunday Alcohol, Liquor and Especially Spirits Act)

Ohio House of Representatives 133rd- General Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee

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Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore- Hagan and members and the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 219, also known as the SALES Act, which is sponsored by Representatives Becker and Hoops.

My name is Michelle Adkins and I am one of four owners of Lacy's Sports Stop in Clark County. This is a small business that the owners have taken on in addition to our full-time careers. As highlighted in Representative Becker and Hoops sponsor activity the issues that arise for bar and restaurant owners is that currently in numerous places in Ohio, Sunday sales of alcohol are prohibited, and the only way to get Sunday sales is to conduct research on the wet/dry status of the property, hold an expensive election, and then pay a yearly fee for a D-6 liquor permit that only allows for sales for part of one day. The owner must first apply for the Sunday sales a D6 liquor permit and then the county board of elections is queried on whether the district the establishment is located is wet or dry. If it is determined the city district is dry, the owner then must obtain the appropriate forms and obtain at least 35% of the number of voters that voted in the last election signatures for a petition to be filed to get the request on the next election ballot. There are many steps that are placed on the owner in obtaining valid signatures, ensuring the person lives in the city district, is a registered voter etc., so the owner is forced to obtain many more signatures than the 35% to obtain the correct amount. If there is a flaw in any of the petition or process it will not be placed on the ballot.

The process of the petition and the vote takes you the owner away from your business and you are trying to improve the business and enhance your revenue. The process is very antiquated and dates to the prohibition. The laws governing Sunday alcohol sales need modernization. The House Bill 219 would treat Sundays and holidays like other days of the week regarding selling privileges. The bill eliminates the confusing start times, and it allows small businesses to use the entire day to generate revenue. The passing of House Bill 219 would make an equal playing field for all bars and restaurants and permit small business owners to enhance their revenue by having the same sales on Sunday as any other day of the week. This would be economic freedom for small business and contribute to our vibrancy.

In conclusion, I would like to state that myself and the other three owners are avid supporters and are proponents of House Bill 219. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony, and I appreciate the Committee listening to our statement as small business owners. Again, thank you Chairman Manning, Vice-Chairman Dean and Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and to all members of the General Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee.