WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 10.21.19

Name: STEVE FERRIS

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization ✓

Organization (If Applicable): DISCOUNT DRUG MART

Position/Title: GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Address: 211 COMMERCE DRIVE

City: MEDINA State: OHIO Zip: 44256

Best Contact Telephone: 216/262-6522 Email: SFERRIS@DISCOUNT-DRUGMART.COM

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ✓ No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): #B 219

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent _____ Opponent ✓ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ✓ No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 MINUTES

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

50th ANNIVERSARY
DISCOUNT drug mart FOOD FAIR
AN EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COMPANY
www.discount-drugmart.com
The Stores That Save YOU The Runaround!

OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
211 Commerce Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256-1398
(330) 725-2340

September 25, 2019

Ms. Gayle Manning
Chair, House Commerce & Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Manning:

We write this letter to express of our opposition to Ohio House Bill 219.

Today- Ohio residents are given the opportunity to decide if beer, wine and spirits are to be sold in their local community. The Ohio Division of Liquor together with local boards of elections let Ohio residents through a series ballot options decide if any alcohol is to be sold- and if so- then they determine what types of alcohol and on what days of the week it will be sold. The ballot option system **lets Ohio residents decide what is best for their local neighborhood**. House Bill 219 would eliminate a Sunday-sales liquor distinction that is currently determined using the ballot option. HB 219 would in an instant give Sunday liquor sales to thousands of businesses- who have not earned that distinction through the ballot option. HB 219 **would strip the decision away from local residents** and the communities in which they live.

We believe we have been a reliable and responsible partner with the Division of Liquor. Discount Drug Mart has worked closely with the Division over our 50 years as a company to make sure we are adhering to the established rules and regulations- we have played by the rules. **HB 219 would change the rules- and would hurt Ohio companies including our own.** Discount Drug Mart has 75 locations in Ohio- our stores are only in Ohio. For each of our stores- we have established Sunday sales by working with the Division of Liquor and local boards of elections to ask local residents for their approval.

Eliminating the Sunday-sales liquor ballot option **would only harm Ohio companies** like ours. Most Ohio companies (e.g. Kroger, Marc's, Heinen's & Buehler's) like Discount Drug Mart have gained Sunday sales through the ballot option- while most of the out-of-state companies have

not gained Sunday sales through the ballot option. Dollar General (based in Goodlettsville, Tennessee) has 361 locations in Ohio. **Of the 361 Dollar General locations in Ohio- only 2 locations have Sunday sales.** If HB 219 passes- the other 359 Dollar General locations without Sunday sales will suddenly have that privilege. More than 60% of the Walgreens stores (based in Deerfield, Illinois) and CVS stores (based in Woonsocket, Rhode Island) **do not** have Sunday sales. By comparison- 100% of Discount Drug Mart locations have Sunday sales.

We believe HB 219 is an **affront to Ohio residents that will take away their right** to determine what is best for their neighborhoods and communities. We believe HB 219 is an attack on Ohio's companies and their employees. Eliminating the Sunday sales distinction would take away from Ohio companies an earned competitive advantage. The passage of **HB 219 would merely give** the Sunday sales distinction to everyone.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully-

Don Boodjeh
Chief Executive Officer

John Gans
President

Discount Drug Mart is an employee owned company based in Medina, Ohio. We are celebrating our 50th year in business in 2019. Our 75 stores and pharmacies are located just in Ohio. Discount Drug Mart employs more than 3,700 Ohioans including more than 230 pharmacists. Our founder, a pharmacist, opened our first location Elyria, Ohio. Today- his three sons and daughter run the company. Our corporate headquarters and distribution center are in Medina, Ohio.

Please contact Steve Ferris, Discount Drug Mart, Governmental Affairs Director, with any questions and if you would like any additional information. Steve can be reached by telephone 216-262-6522 or by email at sferris@discount-drugmart.com.

Cc House Commerce & Labor Committee
House Speaker Larry Householder
Senate President Larry Obhof
Representative Steve Hambley