
Prevention Action Alliance

Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

Ohio Senate Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Prevention Action Alliance May 27, 2020

Good morning, Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as an interested party in consideration of House Bill 160 ("HB 160"). My name is Marcie Seidel, and I am the Executive Director of Prevention Action Alliance (PAA). PAA is a 32-year-old statewide nonprofit organization based in Columbus, Ohio. We are dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. PAA offers a wealth of resources, training services, grants, and advocacy opportunities for those who are active in the prevention and mental health fields.

As prevention professionals, protecting the health and wellness of youth is a priority of ours at PAA. As with other pieces of alcohol-related legislation we want to make sure that any expansion in sales or access are accompanied with consumer protections so our most vulnerable populations are considered and protected. We recommend language be added to require alcohol-infused ice cream to be shipped in resealable containers to decrease the likelihood of children unknowingly ingesting alcohol-infused ice cream simply because they are curious or want ice cream.

Additionally, due to the novelty of alcohol-infused ice cream, it is currently not subject to alcohol labeling requirements set by the federal government. As such, we also recommend that the U.S. Surgeon General's alcohol consumption warning label be added to all alcohol-infused ice cream containers to protect pregnant mothers and underage youth and to prevent impaired driving.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written-only testimony as an interested party, we will be in communication with the chair's office if any questions arise.