
Prevention Action Alliance

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Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Prevention Action Alliance September 22, 2020

Good morning Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as an **opponent** in consideration of **House Bill 669**.

My name is Jean-Philippe Dorval, and I am the Advocacy and Public Policy Liaison for 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 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. If we are going to put in place a long-lasting expansion of alcohol rules and regulations, we would like to ensure that protections are not neglected as it is far more difficult to implement rules once a piece of legislation is passed.

The issues we have with this bill are as follows.

Cocktails To-Go

- This proposal is framed as a continuation of the Governor's Executive Order, allowing for cocktails/mixed drinks to go, but lacks the requirement that drinks need to be purchased with food, has no limit on the number a drinks that can be purchased, and lacks a sunset.
- We understand that this measure was a lifeline for businesses and are happy that they were able to retain/hire back staff because of it. That said, we have not had the opportunity research or see the effects that cocktails to go has had on public safety or public health.
- At the very least keeping this measure temporary with a drink limit and food requirement will give health experts the opportunity see the results of this "experiment".
- Allowing third party vendors to delivery drinks directly to consumers is a regulatory nightmare and has been shown to be abused in other states.

Home Delivery of Spiritous Liquor

- Historically, spirits have been treated differently and regulated more tightly when compared to other alcoholic liquids. The difference is purposeful as spirits are stronger.

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- Allowing for micro-distilleries to ship directly to consumers is a recipe for disaster and would complicate monitoring of sales to a single consumer.
 - How can an e-commerce system for spiritous liquor limit sales to one consumer in the case of an individual using multiple devices to place an order?

Sales Area Expansion

- The language in House Bill 160 was appropriate.
- The proposal in this bill has no sunset and only gives the Division of Liquor control a one-day notice for expansion.
- Without a sunset, questions regarding liability and law enforcement cost arise.

Everyone one of the proposals in this bill are significant enough to be a bill of their own. Similar to HB 674, this bill's passage in its current form will lead to public health and public safety issues. When analyzing HB 669 it is important to expand one's perspective passed their own experience with alcohol to include a consideration of the community as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an opponent. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.