

**Ohio Senate**  
**Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee**  
**HC3: Healthy Choices Caring Communities**

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 **opponent** in consideration of **House Bill 669**.

My name is Elizabeth Thomas and I work in Fulton County I am concerned by this effort to weaken and remove alcohol policies in Ohio. Many of these laws and policies regulating the availability and access of alcohol are based on years of scientific evidence and practice to reduce excessive alcohol consumption (binge, heavy, underage drinking, etc.), alcohol-related injuries, hospitalizations, and mortality.

Addressing economic impact of the pandemic is important, but doing so in an irresponsible way, with little-to-no consumer protections is irresponsible and will put our youth, vulnerable populations, and communities at risk.

- **In Fulton County, 11% of our young people (grades 6 – 12) are considered current drinkers, defined as having at least 1 drink in the past 30 days. This increases to 22% when you look at those high school students who are 17 +**
- **While there has been a policy trend toward e-commerce and home deliveries as noted in the 2018 STOP Act Report to Congress, there has been little discussion regarding how to mitigate harm and importantly how to monitor these new settings to prevent illegal sales to minors.**
- **We believe youth access will increase with the “to go alcohol sales” and home delivery of alcohol as our Fulton County young people report receiving their alcohol from legal age adults.**
  - 30% report “someone” gave it to them**
  - 20% report their parent gave it to them**
  - 17% report someone of legal age (21+), usually a friend or sibling gave it to them**
- **Training of delivery drivers in responsible beverage service sales practices is an important first step in mitigating harms, but regular and routine enforcement monitoring these sales are critical to ensure safe and legal sales practices are maintained.**

- **We have worked for 10 plus years to establish a strong protocol of responsible beverage service with many of our retailers participating in our semi annual “Seller/Server Training” and do not wish to derail this forward progress.**
- **Let us not make alcohol deregulation the new normal.**

Please protect my community by halting the passage of HB 669.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Thomas, MSW, LSW, OCPS

HC3Program Director