



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
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November 15, 2020

Representative Dick Stein
Chair
House Commerce & Labor Committee
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Stein:

We write this letter to express of our opposition to the Sunday-sales provisions in Ohio Substitute Senate Bill 102.

Today- Ohio residents are given the opportunity to decide if beer, wine and spirits are to be sold in their 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 neighborhood**. A provision inside Substitute Senate Bill 102 would weaken the Sunday-sales liquor distinction that is currently determined using the ballot option. This provision would hurt companies like ours- by essentially giving it away to thousands of businesses- who have not earned that distinction through the ballot option. This provision **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. Substitute Senate Bill 102 **would change the rules- and would hurt Ohio companies including our own**. Discount Drug Mart has 77 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.

Weakening 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 390 locations in Ohio. **Of the 390 Dollar General locations in Ohio- only 2 locations have Sunday sales.** Fewer than 10% of Family Dollar stores (based North Carolina) have Sunday Sales. Fewer than 40% of Walgreens stores (based in Illinois) and CVS stores (based in Rhode Island) have Sunday sales. By comparison- 100% of Discount Drug Mart locations have Sunday sales.

We believe this provision inside Substitute Senate Bill 102 is an **affront to Ohio residents that will weaken their right** to determine what is best for their neighborhoods and communities. We believe this provision is an attack on Ohio's companies and their employees. Discount Drug Mart- twice in 2 years- successfully testified against similar legislation (HB 219 in 2019 & HB 674 in 2020) that would have eliminated the Sunday sales distinction. We believe weakening the Sunday sales distinction is not the right course of action. We urge you to remove this provision from the bill.

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 celebrated our 50th year in business in 2019. Our 77 stores and pharmacies are located just in Ohio. Discount Drug Mart employs more than 4,700 Ohioans including more than 250 pharmacists. Our founder, a pharmacist, opened our first location Elyria, Ohio. Today- his two 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 Speaker Bob Cupp
Senate President Matt Huffman
Members, House Commerce & Labor Committee