

6th House District

Columbus' Westside,
Franklin, Prairie, and Norwich
Township, and
Valleyview



Standing Committees

Agriculture
Insurance
Technology and Innovation

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State Representative, Ohio House District 6

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Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the Community Revitalization Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony for HB 218.

Did you know that in Ohio, you can currently get a 10% discount on the purchase of six to twelve bottles of wine? It's a simple incentive that helps consumers stock up on their favorite wines while supporting the wine industry.

Unfortunately, Ohioans who are choosing healthier options or seeking to reduce their alcohol consumption don't receive this same benefit, simply because of what's in (or not in) their glass. House Bill 218 seeks to change that.

This bipartisan bill, which I'm proud to joint-sponsor alongside Representative Salvo, would extend the existing 10% discount to include non-alcoholic and dealcoholized wines, purchased under the same six-to-twelve bottle threshold. That means consumers could mix and match N/A and alcoholic wine bottles as they see fit, and still qualify for the discount.

This is a small, commonsense update to our laws that reflects a much bigger shift in how people are drinking today. Across Ohio, more and more people are choosing to participate in "Dry January," moderate their drinking, cut back their alcohol consumption for health reasons, host gatherings with non-alcoholic options, and/or explore the fast-growing world of alcohol-free options. In fact, non-alcoholic wine sales were up more than 30% nationally last year, as consumers look for products that fit their lifestyles better without sacrificing social, religious, or personal experiences.

But HB 218 isn't just consumer friendly. I've met with several stakeholders in the private industry and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. These businesses want to meet the needs of today's customers. They see the growing demand, but they also want to be sure they're operating on a level playing field when it comes to pricing incentives.

HB 218 gives businesses the flexibility to serve a broader range of consumers while also promoting healthier habits across our state.

For this reason, we respectfully ask for your support of HB 218. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we are happy to answer any questions that the committee may have

