

Save Sunday Ohio

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November 14, 2021

The Honorable Bob Cupp
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Speaker Cupp,

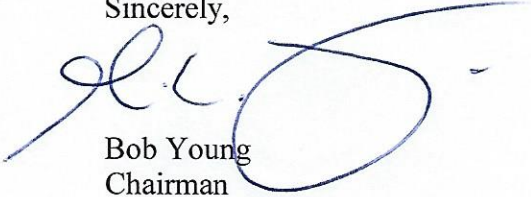
The Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee will be hearing opponent testimony on Sub. Senate Bill 102 next week, which is ultimately **the third attempt in two years** to whittle down the local-option process so Sunday alcohol sales can be granted to all permit holders. The amendment was slipped into Senator Kristina Roegner's home-brewing bill that had received almost unanimous Senate approval. However, the House has added the offending language and appears ready to send it back to the Senate.

We, including retail permit holders, faith leaders and advocates for social responsibility, have defeated language similar to this twice in two years. **If we double the number of Sunday permit holders**, which is the goal of proponents, **those who earned Sunday sales at the ballot will most definitely see a drop in sales** of beer, wine and/or liquor, and ancillary sales as well. Ohio-based retailers, Kroger, Discount Drug Mart, Dave's, Marc's, Buehler's, Heinen's, Grinders Above and Beyond, Fat Jack's Pizza, Cameron Mitchell Restaurants and numerous smaller operations, have seen the value of putting the effort into getting Sunday sales at most or all of their stores.

Dollar General only has a Sunday license at 2 stores. (390 DG stores have weekly beer and wine out of 903 locations) Only 39 Family Dollars have Sunday licenses. (99 Family Dollars have weekly beer and wine out of 449 locations) Fewer than 40% of CVS and Walgreens locations have Sunday licenses. All of the above are out-of-state companies. If the legislature grants Sunday sales to all permit holders, the result will be not only lost sales for the Ohio companies who have it, but more dollar stores popping up as they become more profitable. And if the state takes the next step and just gives every store a seven-day license, because "why shouldn't we? What's the difference?", the Ohio-based grocery industry would likely be wrecked.

When HB 219 was up, the proponents were agents of the national liquor industry who wanted to capture sales from beer and wine manufacturers and sellers. Their increased profits remain the driving force of the current legislation. The House policy advisor I spoke to Friday said, "why should there be a difference between wine and liquor?" "Why should Sunday be different than any other day?" There is a difference. Alcohol abuse poses the same danger to health and safety now as it did 50 years ago. The legislature then gave communities the option to vote for a break from alcohol one day a week, and it has worked well as designed. Crime statistics demonstrate that Sunday still has the lowest incidence of crime every year, while Saturday has the highest incidence of crime. That most Ohio-based companies have taken the initiative to earn a competitive advantage is an additional benefit. **This benefit should not be undone by the legislature** to serve the profit interests of some over the profit interests others who have worked a little harder to do the best job for their customers and communities.

Sincerely,



Bob Young
Chairman