
Prevention Action Alliance

Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Prevention Action Alliance May 18, 2021

Good Afternoon Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Fedor, 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 **Senate Bill 102**.

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.

We understand that for some homebrewers, permits may seem like an obstacle keeping them from sharing their hobby with others, however it is these permits and limits that keep our communities safe from tainted products that may lead to injury or death.

If the General Assembly would like to give homebrewers a little more flexibility it must be done in a responsible way that keeps public health at the forefront of the conversation. We would like to see the following changes to the bill:

- **Changing “private property” to “private residence” anywhere the mention of an event is made.**
 - Using the term private property opens the door for large scale events that would be on par with those regulated by the Division of Liquor Control. Changing private property to private residence would help prevent this provision from being used as a loophole to avoid public health regulations.
- **Requiring possession of an H permit when transporting homemade beer or wine.**
 - We have serious concerns regarding how this bill complicates open container law, and the potential for underage drinking and road safety issues. Allowing for the transportation of an unspecified amount of homemade beer or wine without an H permit opens the door for series of public health and safety issues.

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- **Prohibiting registration fees for homemade beer or wine events.**
 - The bill prohibits homebrewers from selling their product at an event but contradicts itself by allowing for the collection of registration fees. Who is the registration revenue going to? What will this revenue be used for? If a homebrewer pockets registration revenue or uses it to fund their homebrewing operation they are essentially selling their product.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as an opponent. We will be in contact through the Chair's office should any questions arise.