

Dear Representative Hoagland,

August 31, 2020

I am writing to help promote the passage of H.B. 674.

I have a billiard room and bar in Hilliard at the Tinapple Plaza. I moved my business 2 years ago from the Hilliard Shopping Center, roughly ½ mile up the road. The Hilliard Shopping center location did not have a Sunday restriction, so for 15 years I operated with a D5/D6 capability. Upon moving, I was informed, after leases were signed and the Liquor license transfer was almost complete, the new location was not allowed D6 (Sunday) sales. This has been a significant loss of revenue for my business.

To make things more confusing, in 2011, another business in the same shopping center, the Olive Tree, canvassed the neighborhood and was able to put the issue on the ballot. The resolution passed. My business is 3 doors down, in the same shopping center, but my address is not authorized to sell Sunday wine and spirits. We are allowed to serve beer on Sunday as a result of the Olive Tree efforts securing ballot approval. Which seems counter intuitive to me because if the vote hadn't passed, even beer would not be allowed to be sold on Sunday. In addition, I believe the voters have already spoken with their approval for the sales on Sunday.

During two different election cycles, I have attempted to secure signatures in the required neighborhood. The first time, I was told that 177 signatures were required. My team and I collected just shy of 200. Approximately one month later, after turning them in, I received a letter from the board of elections stating we did not meet the required number, no other explanation. The second effort yielded almost the same number of signatures only to find out that for this election, we needed 330 signatures. That was in fall of 2018 and spring of 2019. Today's medical, political and social climate make it impossible to canvass neighborhoods and secure signatures. The world is rapidly changing and collecting signatures door to door is archaic and not realistic.

Not allowing Sunday spirit and wine sales is an inhibitor to business recovery, for businesses like mine, through the COVID pandemic. As a local billiard room and bar owner, in this highly competitive environment, I rely on the ability to satisfy my customers wants and needs. We have leagues, which are a lifeblood for my business, that do not want to participate on Sundays because we NO LONGER offer drinks for sale on Sunday. This has been a huge blow to revenue.

Finally, the current approach to managing who can sell and who cannot, is very unfair. The law says it's okay to go 3 doors down, in the same shopping center, to order a drink you are not allowed to order one at my business, even though I have a D5 license, with a D6 on hold, waiting for this to pass. Or the local Kroger, Giant Eagle or Meijer can sell spiritous liquor on Sunday, but the local bar cannot. It makes no sense. I believe this situation started as a result of the church blue law idea. My question is what church is wanting this to persist? Who is being benefited by my address not being allowed to sell spirits on Sunday?

Please help to move this forward to get passed. My business needs your assistance on this matter.

Thanks you,

Don Reed

Bankshot Billiards LLC

