
Prevention Action Alliance

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Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Prevention Action Alliance September 22, 2020

Good morning Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an **opponent** in consideration of **House Bill 674**.

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.

As with other pieces of alcohol-related legislation we want to make sure that any expansion in sales or access are accompanied with consumer protections, so our most vulnerable populations are considered and protected. If we are going to put in place a long-lasting expansion of alcohol rules and regulations, we would like to ensure that protections are not neglected as it is far more difficult to implement rules once a piece of legislation is passed.

The issues we have with this bill are as follows.

Expansion of Hours

- Research has found that an expansion of operating hours even by two hours from 2 am to 4 am will lead to increased alcohol-harm. Alcohol-related harms include hospitalizations/emergency department visits, homicides, and crime,¹ which is why the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends that hours and days of alcohol sales should be maintained not expanded.^{2,3}

¹ Sanchez-Ramirez DC, Voaklander D. The impact of policies regulating alcohol trading hours and days on specific alcohol-related harms: a systematic review. *Inj Prev*. 2018;24(1):94-100. doi:10.1136/injuryprev-2016-042285.

² Hahn RA, Kuzara JL, Elder R, et al. Effectiveness of policies restricting hours of alcohol sales in preventing excessive alcohol consumption and related harms. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 2010;39(6):590-604.

³ Task Force on Community Services. Recommendations on maintaining limits on days and hours of sale of alcoholic beverages to prevent excessive alcohol consumption and related harms. 2010;39(6):605-6

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- Local option elections for 24-hour sales is a terrifying proposal when you consider Ohioans with Alcohol Use Disorder.
- Elimination of the D-6 permit (Sunday sales) will remove \$5,874,400 revenue from enforcement agencies, municipalities and townships, and treatment and prevention according to the LSC Fiscal Analysis.
- There has been no discussion about how that funding will be made up. The K and J permits cost 100 dollars each, and with one being a local election option that funding will not be recovered from their creation.
- In other words, this bill expands availability of a substance while defunding the very entities that are tasked with handling the negative consequences that result from it.

Outdoor Refreshment Area Deregulation

- The language that was in HB 160 was an appropriate level of expansion.
- The language in this bill weakens a municipality's authority in the creation of a DORA by changing the approval structure.
- The elimination of acreage limits and population limits is unnecessary and will strain enforcement resources that have already been decreasing for years⁴.

Social Media Use

- It was said during proponent testimony that social media is the new newspaper. That could not be farther from the truth.
- Industries that profit from the sale of addictive substances have historically misused advertising practices to market to children.
- Allowing this tool to be used by alcohol distributors, manufactures, trade marketing professionals, solicitors, or brokers of alcoholic beverages will create increased risk to our youth if the proper advertising guidelines are not in place.

This bill has been falsely framed as a response to the Pandemic in an attempt to irresponsibly ram through a large number of deregulatory and expansive measures before the end of this General Assembly.

It is clear that when this bill was drafted not an ounce of public health data or research was considered. Passing this bill, the way it is currently written, during a time when alcohol consumption is up, and behavioral health issues are on the rise, is dangerous and will harm our communities. This is not hyperbole, this is not conjecture, this is fact, and I hope that this committee shares my concern for the health of Ohioans.

⁴ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (NHTSA). "The Role of Alcohol Beverage Control Agencies in the Enforcement and Adjudication of Alcohol Laws"(2005).

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an opponent. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.