



December 9, 2015

Representative Jim Buchy
Ohio House of Representatives
30 East Broad Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Buchy:

Thank you for your leadership on the many different issues that impact the citizens of Ohio. Substance abuse has been an issue which has impacted nearly every person in Ohio whether through personal experience, family issues or community impacts and we are grateful that the Ohio Legislature has been such a strong leader in policies around substance use to keep communities safe and families strong.

House Bill 68 would increase the maximum allowable alcohol beverage content level in beer from 12% to 21% and could potentially create an increase in binge drinking, specifically among underage drinking. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines binge drinking, which for men is drinking five (and women drinking four) or more alcohol servings in about two hours. This increase in alcohol content would equate to 4.1 drinks per 12 ounce beer and, therefore, drinking just one beer would constitute a binge drinking episode.

The societal costs of excessive alcohol use and binge drinking are staggering. According to the CDC, excessive alcohol use cost the United States in \$249 billion in workplace productivity losses, health care costs and motor vehicle crashes, with 40% of those costs going directly to federal, state and local governments. In Ohio alone, excessive alcohol costs estimates to \$6.5 billion. This is in addition to the lives lost and families impacted by excessive alcohol use and binge drinking. I have included a fact sheet from the CDC on the issue to society of excessive alcohol use.

We are hopeful that this dangerous piece of legislation does not move forward in the Ohio General Assembly and that countless lives are saved through keeping the alcohol content at its current level.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and if you have any questions or need any clarification on anything in this letter, please feel free to contact me at (614) 540-9985 or mseidel@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marcie Seidel'.

Marcie Seidel
Executive Director