



Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health & Safety

P.O. Box 232, Perry, Michigan 48872

Phone: 517.803.5586, E-mail: michiganalcoholpolicy@gmail.com

www.michiganalcoholpolicy.org

March 2, 2021

Good morning Chairman Hauck and members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee,

My name is Mike Tobias and I represent the grassroots organization Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety. I appreciate the opportunity to testify against HB4115.

HB4115 is bad public policy and if this legislation passes we can expect:

- An increase in alcohol consumption.
- An increase in motor vehicle crash injuries ranging from 4% to 11%
- A shift in timing of motor vehicle crashes corresponding to the change in closing time of the alcohol outlet.
- And an increase in emergency room admissions, injuries, violence, and suspected driving while intoxicated, as well as an increase in alcohol-related assault and injury.

Aside from this being bad policy there are several shortcomings with this bill.

1. A \$250 fee is way too low. Previous versions of a 4am sales bills had the fee as high as \$10,000 to cover the clean up of the alcohol related harm. Right now, the economic costs of excessive drinking are over \$800/person. See attached fact sheet.
2. There are no security measures required in this bill. Previous versions of a 4am sales bill included video surveillance as well as security guard requirements.
3. There is no sunset clause. If the bill passes there should be a sunset clause and a requirement to study this policy change to see if drunk driving increases or if there is an increase in emergency rooms visits, or any of the other negative outcomes mentioned above.
4. No responsible beverage service training. Currently only one person on site would have to be trained in responsible beverage service. All servers selling alcohol should be trained in responsible beverage service.

COVID-19 and the Opioid Epidemic - There is no good time for bad policy. Michigan should not be extending alcohol sales during this current pandemic or during Michigan's current opioid epidemic. Approximately, 25% of opioid overdose deaths involve alcohol. Michigan needs to do more to help people in recovery. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it will save money too. Again, extending alcohol sales will not help either the pandemic or epidemic that we are in.

Local opt in could actually increase drinking and driving. From hearing the comments last time there appears to be some misunderstanding about the local control opt in. Let me be as clear as I can. Local opt in will **NOT** be sufficient to protect our citizens. Bars that choose to stay open until 4am will draw people from the region and then these people will be driving back home from 4:30-5:30am

Nobody is clamoring for this policy change. Aside from Rep. Berman, no one is clamoring for this policy change. Not even the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association considers this a priority.

Extending alcohol sales to 4am is not in the best interests for Michigan's citizens and communities. I urge this committee to properly vet this issue before voting on this matter.

- I encourage all members of this committee to ask their local law enforcement what the calls for service after midnight are about. If you ask them, I'm fairly certain they will tell you that a lot of the calls involve alcohol.
- Talk with your college and university presidents about what they think of this pending legislation. We have made very little progress with college drinking and this will not help matters.
- Talk with our alcohol epidemiologist, our medical professionals, the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and ask them what is going on with drunk driving in Michigan. Please consult these entities before doing something that could endanger the lives of our citizens.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. Please do the right thing, and vote HB4115 down.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Tobias".

Michael A. Tobias
517.803.5586 cell