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The Honorable Peter Micciche
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Micciche:

I offer Rasmuson Foundation's unqualified endorsement and support for Senate Bill 165, the Title 4 rewrite of state statutes related to ABC Board composition and Minor Consuming.

Rasmuson Foundation has for years invested in programs and facilities that offer sanctuary to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, to the homeless and the hopeless. Recently, we have turned our attention "upstream" to identify and address root causes of social problems. The overconsumption of alcohol has an irrefutably high correlation with many of the state's most difficult issues. Title 4 review and rewrite is one of the key strategies of this important upstream work, and Senate Bill 165 is an important first step in addressing and updating our state's outdated, confusing or otherwise ineffective alcohol laws.

Senate Bill 165 is the product of a four-year process initiated by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to engage a diverse group of more than 70 stakeholders to determine how to improve the structure, organization, specific policies and associated implementation issues in Title 4, Alaska's statutes regarding regulation and control of alcoholic beverages in the state.

As the ABC Board enters the fifth year of its Title 4 review process, stakeholders have identified several areas that currently benefit from broad support and can have immediate impacts this year. The changes recommended in SB165 are supported by the ABC Board and have been vetted by dozens of industry, public health and public safety representatives. We urge the legislature to move forward with:

- 1) Changes to the ABC Board Composition to increase representation from public health and public safety; and,

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- 2) Rework the Minor Consuming statutes to restore offenses to true violations in 2016.

As you know, finding consensus across the board is often a challenge. To that end, there are several other areas within Title 4 that can benefit from additional review and refinement. We remain committed to finding broad consensus among stakeholders regarding licensing, internet sales and local option. The Title 4 Review Steering Committee plans to bring forward recommendations in these additional areas in time for consideration in 2017. In the meantime, I hope all members of the 29th Alaska State Legislature will support this pair of discrete recommendations, which are products of a significant multi-year effort.

Thank you again for your sponsorship of SB165. I respectfully request expeditious review and approval of this critically important and timely legislation this session. I am available to answer any questions raised by your colleagues in the Alaska State Legislature.

Regards,



Diane Kaplan
President & CEO

Cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer, President, Alaska State Senate
Sen. Mia Costello, Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce
Committee
Sen. Lesil McGuire, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Mr. Bob Klein, Chair, ABC Board