



ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
431 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 203
JUNEAU, AK 99801
907-465-8920

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Peter A. Micciche
Alaska Senate
State Capitol Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 52 - An Act Relating to Alcoholic Beverage Control

Dear Senator Micciche:

The Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) are the state agencies statutorily-charged with advising the Governor, the Legislature and related Departments in the planning and coordinating of behavioral health services funded by the State of Alaska. The joint mission of AMHB and ABADA is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, and productive Alaskans.

The Boards are in full support of Senate Bill 52 and thank you for your leadership on this effort. This bill is the product of a seven-year process initiated by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to engage a diverse group of more than 120 stakeholders across the state 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.

Most of the current Title 4 provisions have not been updated since the 1980s. This systematic redraft of the chapter will help the ABC Board carry out its mission by improving the public health and safety standards in a way that promotes fair business practices. Our communities will benefit from this comprehensive package to ensure licensees, the ABC Board and law enforcement are clear and consistent in their authority.

This package ensures that the ABC Board fairly represents the interests of all Alaskans and will be a leader in alcohol education, policy and regulation. This bill will benefit businesses by making Title 4 easier to understand and comply with, it will protect existing business investments and provide more flexibility for innovative business models. This bill further protects youth by ensuring that the penalty for underage drinking does not jeopardize a young person's future, it provides youth an incentive to seek needed alcohol education or treatment, and it holds adults who supply alcohol to youth more accountable.

Thank you for this opportunity to support and comment on SB52 and please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Beverly Schoonover
Acting Executive Director



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Diane Kaplan

April 11, 2019

Chair Reinbold
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801

Dear Chair Reinbold and members of the Senate Labor and
Commerce Committee,

The overconsumption of alcohol, as you know, has a high correlation with many of the state's most difficult issues. For nearly 65 years, Rasmuson Foundation has invested in programs and facilities that offer support and sanctuary to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, and the homeless.

There is a critically important piece of legislation before you that we hope receives your attention and sees passage this session. We are writing in support of Senate Bill 52, the Title 4 rewrite bill. SB 52 updates the statutes governing Alaska's alcohol laws. This legislation is the product of a seven-year collaboration that engaged more than 120 stakeholders, including people from every level of the alcohol industry, public health advocates, substance use prevention and treatment providers, local governments, police, advocates for youth, and others. This bill offers a consensus-based set of recommendations that address current problems in law, and creates a better framework for the ABC Board, as well as the Legislature, to address future issues as they arise from year to year.

Many pages of the bill simply reorganize the current Title 4 provisions, aligning penalties with the various populations they impact and putting all the license types in one section, making it more user friendly for the public and easier to administer the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office. There are also critical changes to statutes that need to be passed this year in order to create a safer, more equitable environment. The changes offer practical solutions for some of Alaska's long-standing problems related to alcohol. The updates in SB 52 will:

- Give the state enforcement tools for controlling Internet sales of alcohol and holds businesses accountable for following state rules.
- Increase fees for alcohol licenses, which will generate additional revenue for the state and for individual

communities who receive a portion of the revenue for local law enforcement.

- Support better enforcement of alcohol laws, as well as more education to businesses and communities about following the laws and operating responsibly.
- Hold businesses with alcohol sales licenses immediately accountable if an employee serves a minor or oversees someone who's already intoxicated.

The solutions found in SB 52 came only after many hours across the table from one another, week after week, year after year, until we found common ground and a shared interest in updating the laws to make them better than the disjointed system we have today. Compromise is hard work; its reward in the Title 4 project is a well-vetted and reasonably balanced set of policies that, if enacted into law, can have lasting benefits for all sectors who are impacted by alcohol. There is no doubt further work to do on Title 4, but we must start with these consensus-based recommendations, and we must act as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Kaplan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Kaplan
President and CEO

April 11, 2019

Alaska Children's Trust
3201 C Street, Suite 110
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



To members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) supports the statewide effort to revise Title 4 of the Alaska Statutes regulating alcoholic beverages. ACT is the statewide lead organization focused on child abuse and neglect. We are asking you to support Senate Bill 52, introduced in February 2019, which would revise Title 4 of the Alaska Statutes regulating alcohol beverages

As a member of the Recover Alaska steering committee, ACT recognizes the impact of the changes being recommended to Senate Bill 52 supports Alaska's efforts to ensuring our children grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing homes. Alcohol is a major factor in the harms to many children and families in Alaska, including domestic violence and child maltreatment. Having a well-regulated alcohol industry that understands and follows the laws is part of the solution. The changes to Title 4 contained in this bill offer practical solutions for some of Alaska's long-standing issues related to alcohol.

The proposed revisions in SB 52 are a comprehensive package of inter-related proposals to improve the overall system of alcohol regulation in Alaska. They will:

- Make Title 4 a clear and consistent framework used by licensees, the ABC Board and law enforcement
- Increase effectiveness of Title 4 enforcement by improving the swiftness, proportionality and consistency of penalties
- Increase licensee accountability before the ABC Board for Title 4 violations.

This package ensures that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board fairly represents the interests of all Alaskans and will be a leader in alcohol education, policy and regulation. It will promote a fair business climate and protect public health and safety by:

- Creating a rational regulatory structure for Alaska's alcohol licensing system
- Limiting youth access to alcohol
- Promoting responsible alcohol use and reduce the harms of overconsumption.

We all know alcohol takes a huge toll on Alaska families, and addiction can impact families through many generations. SB 52 is just one part of the larger effort we can all support to reduce the devastating impacts of alcohol on children and families across our state. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trevor J. Storrs
President and CEO

Diane M. DiSanto
2246 Susitna Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

April 15, 2019

Senator Peter Micciche
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Micciche:

I would like to personally thank you for sponsoring the much-needed revisions to Alaska's Title 4 statutes introduced in Senate Bill 52. As a social worker, I continually see the devastating impact alcohol misuse brings to our communities. This is a critically important piece of legislation as these statutes haven't been updated since the 1980s. Title 4 is outdated, and at times confusing or otherwise ineffective in carrying out the intent of the statutes.

As you know, this legislation has strong support statewide. SB52 is supported by local businesses, philanthropic organizations, local government, and professionals from the public health and public safety. SB 52 makes Alaska's alcohol laws easier to understand, and easier to comply with and enforce. The bill addresses many issues that businesses and communities have found confusing or problematic. It has many important changes to Title 4 that can reduce underage drinking, hold adults who supply youth more accountable, and promote responsible service – not overservice – at alcohol establishments.

These are all part of the multi-prong solutions we need to reduce our devastating alcohol-related statistics in Alaska, which represent real people and real suffering in our communities. We need to do more to protect our children and our communities against the many terrible consequences of alcohol misuse—this is one step the Legislature can take toward that goal.

Again, thank you for supporting the significant multi-year effort by sponsoring SB52. I fully support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Diane DiSanto

cc: Edra Morledge



4/8/2019

State Capital Room 504
Juneau AK, 99801

Senator Micciche,

I am asking you to support Senate Bill 52, introduced in January 2019, which would revise Title 4 of the Alaska Statutes regulating alcohol beverages. This bill is the product of a seven-year process initiated by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to engage a diverse group of more than 120 stakeholders across the state 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.

Title 4 is recognized to be in many ways outdated, confusing or otherwise ineffective in carrying out the intent of the statutes. Much of the chapter has not been updated since 1980. Over time, incremental updates and changing trends have reduced the effectiveness of Title 4. This systematic redraft of Title 4 will help the ABC Board carry out its mission and will benefit organizations and individuals whose work, community or business is affected by alcoholic beverage laws and regulations.

The proposed revisions in SB 52 are a comprehensive package of inter-related proposals to improve the overall system of alcohol regulation in Alaska. They will:

- Make Title 4 a clear and consistent framework used by licensees, the ABC Board and law enforcement
- Increase effectiveness of Title 4 enforcement by improving the swiftness, proportionality and consistency of penalties
- Increase licensee accountability before the ABC Board for Title 4 violations.

This package ensures that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board fairly represents the interests of all Alaskans and will be a leader in alcohol education, policy and regulation. It will promote a fair business climate and protect public health and safety by:

- Creating a rational regulatory structure for Alaska's alcohol licensing system
- Limiting youth access to alcohol
- Promoting responsible alcohol use and reduce the harms of overconsumption.

I urge you to support the significant multi-year effort of this statewide stakeholder group by voting in support of SB 52 and improving Title 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Licht".

Philip Licht
Executive Director
Set Free Alaska

Trust

Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508
Tel 907.269.7960
www.mhtrust.org

April 8, 2019

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capital Room 508
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Labor and Commerce hearing - Senate Bill 52

Dear Senator Micciche,

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority supports the statewide effort to revise Title 4 of the Alaska Statutes regulating alcohol in our state.

Over the years, the Trust has been an active partner in Title 4 reform efforts, along with a multitude of partners representing the alcohol industry, public health, and public safety. We are committed to this legislation as we see in it many public health benefits that directly impact the health and wellness of all Alaskans – and more specifically for beneficiaries of the Mental Health Trust. In addition to health-related impacts, alcohol abuse and over-consumption is also costly to our state, the 2017 McDowell Report commissioned by the Trust clearly outlines those economic impacts- upwards of 1.84 billion annually.

Title 4 is outdated and, as it currently stands, does not create a clear and consistent framework for alcohol regulation. The Trust engaged in Title 4 reform early, recognizing that improving the statutes would have a positive impact on public health. We also see value in better defining Alaska's alcohol laws, creating a clear framework that is easier to understand, comply with, and enforce.

SB52 creates a rational regulatory structure for our states licensing system, controls online alcohol sales, limits youth access to alcohol, and promotes responsible alcohol use - all while simultaneously supporting a fair business environment. SB52 represents the thoughtful, transparent, and stakeholder-driven process that contributed to the final recommendations included in this bill, and that have garnered unprecedented support of the public health and public safety community as well as the alcohol industry.

We very much appreciate your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Abbott,
Chief Executive Officer
The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority