



Resolution Related to the Privatization of the Pennsylvania State Store System

Whereas, legalizing a harmful substance or activity never removes the harm. It just changes the legal consequences; and

Whereas, the U. S. financial costs of alcohol are \$185 billion annually and the state and federal taxes are \$14.5 billion,ⁱ meaning that society is subsidizing the use of this drug and enabling the harm; and

Whereas, the annual financial cost of underage drinking in Pennsylvania is \$2.2 billion;ⁱⁱ and

Whereas, alcohol is a mind-altering drug more harmful than heroin when considering its impact on not only the user but others as well;ⁱⁱⁱ and

Whereas, according to the Center for Disease Control, in 2007 there were 14,406 alcoholic liver disease deaths and 23,199 alcohol-induced deaths, excluding accidents and homicides;^{iv} and

Whereas, a few of the many other negative impacts of alcohol include the only cause of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders^v, higher risk for several cancers,^{vi} atrial fibrillation,^{vii} domestic violence, and the implication of alcohol in fifty-six point six percent of incarcerations, (56.6%), etc.; and

Whereas, the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol was re-legalized at the end of Prohibition, and Pennsylvania created the Liquor Control Board; and

Whereas, the PA Liquor Code was designed to protect public welfare, health, peace and morals of the people and the Liquor Control Board's role was control not revenues or promotion of use of this harmful and often deadly drug; and

Whereas, there is talk of privatizing the (650) State Stores in Pennsylvania and increasing the number of similar stores as well as a continued increase in the number of other alcoholic beverage licenses which are already over 21,000;^{viii} and

Whereas, accessibility increases use, and increased use adds to the already overburdened demands on our healthcare, criminal justice and social service systems; and

Whereas, the Liquor Control Board's primary purpose is supposed to be looking out for the public welfare

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Council on Alcohol Problems joins the many voices in opposition to privatization of the State Store system in Pennsylvania; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Council on Alcohol Problems supports the return to the original purpose of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board which was to protect the welfare of the public in order to provide for a safer and healthier citizenry.

ⁱ <http://www.cnbc.com/id/36267223>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.udetc.org/factsheets/Pennsylvania.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/nov/01/alcohol-more-harmful-than-heroin-crack>

^{iv} <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/alcohol.htm>

^v <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/data.html>

^{vi} <http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-alcohol-cancer-risk-20110711,0,5156757.story>

^{vii} <http://www.aolhealth.com/condition-center/heart-disease/drinking-alcohol-increases-heart-problem-risk>

^{viii}

<http://www.lcbapps.lcb.state.pa.us/webapp/Agency/SearchCenter/PublicLicenseeSearchDefault.asp>