



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of
Representative Matthew Lesser, 100th District
February 22, 2011

In Support of HB 5280, An Act Requiring Free Water at Certain Events where Alcoholic Liquor is Served

Chairman Taborsak and Chairman Doyle, Representative Rebimbas, Senator Witkos and honorable members of the General Law Committee,

I want to thank the Committee for allowing a public hearing on House Bill 5280, *AN ACT REQUIRING FREE WATER AT CERTAIN EVENTS WHERE ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IS SERVED*.

This bill was introduced at the request of a constituent in Middletown, but I believe it addresses an oversight in state law.

The purpose of this legislation is explained in its title.

In our state there is no requirement that a bar or dance club or other event that serves alcohol also provide a glass of tap water, on request, to a patron.

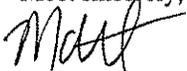
At a time when the General Assembly has been wrestling with issues of controlling health care costs and the horrendous impact of drunk driving in all our communities, it seems like simple common sense to encourage patrons of events serving alcohol to drink water.

Unfortunately, some business owners are putting their profit margins over their patrons' health and safety and refusing to provide tap water on request. Instead, they are hoping to sell bottled water. This is on top of cover charges and alcohol sales.

My understanding is that the overwhelming majority of owners of establishments serving alcohol in Connecticut provide free tap water to their patrons. This legislation would ensure that they are not placed at a competitive disadvantage with respect to their competition.

Thank you again for hearing this bill and for your consideration.

Most sincerely,


Matthew Lesser