

**TESTIMONY OF ATTORNEY ERIC R. BROWN
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE UNIONS
AFSCME, COUNCIL 15
BEFORE THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE OF
THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee, I represent AFSCME Council 15, a labor union representing the interests of more than 4000 police officers in 62 municipal communities throughout Connecticut.

We are opposed to the passage of HB 6264 – An Act Authorizing the Sale or Dispensing of Alcoholic Liquor on Sunday.

We oppose this legislation because it presents a threat to the public safety of the citizens of Connecticut. Studies have shown that elimination of restrictions on days of sales results in increased threats to the public safety.

- A 1995 repeal of a ban on Sunday sales was associated with a 30% increase in motor vehicle fatalities on Sundays compared with other days of the week (New Mexico).
- An experimental Saturday ban in 1981 was associated with declines in alcohol-related violence and other disturbances (Sweden).
- Local repeal of a state-wide allowance of Sunday sales was associated with relative declines in motor vehicle fatalities (New Mexico).
- A study in New Mexico found that lifting a Sunday ban on packaged alcohol led to an estimated increase of 41.6 alcohol-related fatalities on Sundays for the 5-year period from 1995 to 2000. This would result in an estimated additional cost of more than \$6 million (in 2007 U.S. dollars) for medical care and lost productivity per year for the state.

<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/limitingsale.html>

Not only would Sunday sales increase the incidence of motor vehicle accidents and injuries, as well as violent crime, but costs to municipalities would increase along with the societal costs associated with medical care and lost productivity. Municipalities would be required to increase patrol units on Sundays to deal with the increased activity associated with alcohol consumption.

The increases in costs, and potential harms to the overall public safety associated with Sunday sales, should result in opposition to this bill from the committee.