



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

56 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

860-571-6191

fax: 860-571-6190

Testimony of Lori Pelletier

Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the General Law Committee

February 8, 2001

Senator Doyle and Representative Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee, I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I'm here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 220,000 working women and men from every city and town in our great state.

H.B. No. 6264 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR DISPENSING OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON SUNDAY.

We support this legislation. Connecticut is the only state in the northeast which prohibits the sale of alcohol. This policy is not good for consumers, or for those in the retail food and beverage industry. This antiquated blue law means less business for the towns close in proximity to our neighboring states. At a time when we are leaving few stones unturned when it comes to enhancing state revenue, Sunday sales are a real easy lift. This is pro consumer, pro worker and pro budget bill and we urge your support.

I've attached a copy of a letter from United Food and Commercial Workers Locals 371 and 919 Presidents Tom Wilkinson and Mark Espinosa, these gentlemen speak on behalf of the 20,000 unionized workers in our retail food industry and this legislation is critical to their hardworking members.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 6264, and if you have any questions I would be glad to answer them.

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Thomas A. Wilkinson
President, Local 371 UFCW

February 7, 2011

Dear Governor Malloy and Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the 20,000 members of UFCW Local 371 and Local 919 living in Connecticut, we are writing to note our support to end the antiquated blue law ban on the Sunday sale of alcoholic beverages at neighborhood grocery and package stores.

Connecticut is the only state in the Northeast, and one of the only three states in the nation, that still prohibits the Sunday sale of beer, wine, and spirits at local grocery and package stores. This means less convenience for Connecticut consumers. This means lost business for grocery and package stores located near the border of neighboring states that have eliminated this blue law prohibition. Why does Connecticut prohibit sales on the busiest shopping day of the week?

Lifting this outdated blue law will lead to increased sales, which in turn will mean more hours and new jobs for our members who continue to struggle in this difficult economy. Increased sales will also mean desperately needed new revenue for the state that is facing a \$3.5 billion deficit. According to a December 2009 report issued by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, Connecticut could see an increase of up to \$8 million in new revenue annually if the Sunday alcohol sales prohibition were repealed.

Ending the blue law ban on Sunday sales is a common sense, pro-consumer reform that is long overdue. We urge you to finally put an end to Connecticut's outdated blue law ban on the Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Wilkinson
President, Local 371 UFCW

Mark A. Espinosa
President, Local 919 UFCW