



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Opposition to R.H.B. 6264, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR DISPENSING OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR ON SUNDAY.

Before the General Law Committee
Public Hearing February 8, 2011

Program Review and Investigations Committee, which I recently co-chaired with Sen. John Kissel, looked at the tax implications of Sunday sales of alcoholic liquor as a small part of a larger study of the Connecticut economy. We did not examine the social implications of expanding sales to seven days. While our research staff concluded that Sunday sales would probably increase the revenues of the state by \$8 million based on reviews of other states' experiences, I hope the General Law Committee will weigh the pros and cons of expansion and not decide the fate of the bill solely on the basis of revenues. There are also concerns with small business protection and social policy.

Concerning business competition, it is clear from local package stores in my district, which is located in south central Connecticut, that the change would mainly benefit stores along the Massachusetts border, while it would be detrimental to Wallingford package stores. It is also clear that a shift in policy would favor larger supermarkets, which are open daily, over small businesses that are closed on Sunday.

But my biggest problem with this proposed change is the nature of the product that is sold. If we were talking about road salt or garden supplies, it would not matter if it was available for sale every day. But having experienced attempting to manage an alcoholic family member who recently died of his disease, I can attest that if not for the ban on Sunday sales of alcoholic liquor, there is no way any of his loved ones could have had a normal conversation with the afflicted family member. Police chiefs who spoke at the PRI Committee hearing in 2010 also noted that

Sundays in CT were relatively quiet and peaceful due to the alcohol purchase ban, and they expected to lose this one quiet day if alcohol becomes readily available for purchase on Sunday. So we can anticipate negative social consequences with accompanying costs to our communities if the state authorizes Sunday sales. I hope you will oppose this change.