



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER  
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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### General Law Committee Public Hearing February 28, 2012

#### **HB 5021, An Act Concerning Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation For Permittees**

Senator Doyle, Senator Leone, Senator Witkos, Representative Taborsak,  
Representative Baram, Representative Rebimbas and Members of the General  
Law Committee:

I come before you today to voice my opposition to HB 5021. Over the last year we have all talked about doing more for small business in Connecticut, recognizing the number of jobs created by these small businesses. The bipartisan jobs bill we passed in October did much to foster growth for existing business and encourage new business to open in our state.

This bill is totally counter to all we have tried to do in supporting our small businesses. In my own town of Madison, seven independent package stores' futures are being threatened by the provisions contained in this bill.

Governor Malloy's office tells us this bill will modernize Connecticut's liquor laws so that Connecticut will be more competitive. Local, independent package stores won't be more competitive, they will be closed.

My local business owners don't know what to do about resigning leases, buying new equipment or in the case of one young entrepreneur, realizing his dream of finally buying his own boss out and for the first time owning his own business.

This bill supports big box stores and encourages large chain stores to take over the industry.

Page 2

**General Law Committee Public Hearing  
February 28, 2012  
Testimony on HB 5021**

Our independent liquor stores dot our main streets and are part of each of our communities. These business owners obey our laws, pay their taxes and donate to their towns' civic organizations.

This bill, in allowing quantity discounts, gives an unfair advantage to big box stores. With quantity discounts, large stores will have the ability to sell alcoholic products at much lower prices than the small retailers.

The medallion system as proposed by Governor Malloy will accelerate the closing of small package stores. Right now, the number of package stores is regulated based on population of a community. The medallion system will allow giant retailers to purchase a store in one community and open up anywhere in the state, even right next to an established small independent store.

I have met with several of my local package store owners. Many of them are here today. Each of these business owners and their employees oppose this bill. The changes proposed in this bill – in pricing, licensing and ownership rules – will hurt them and all independent package store owners throughout Connecticut.

I respectfully urge you to protect these small business owners and not support this bill and thank you for your attention and consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,



Noreen S. Kokoruda  
State Representative  
101<sup>st</sup> District

NSK/pb