

## Proposed Liquor Legislation

## Opposed

To: General Law Committee Members

2/28/2012

From: Rick Eadie  
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Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Senator McKinney, Representative Cafero, distinguished members of the General Assembly, thank you for allowing me to speak today. I'd also like to recognize the hundreds of small business owners and the employees who are here today as well, most of them being off the clock.

I am now and have been in the CT wine and liquor industry since 1988. As an employee and as an owner in lower Fairfield County and then covering the whole state on the supplier side, representing importers of Italian wine. I am telling you of my background because over the course of the last 24 years I have personally been involved with over 500 charitable fundraisers for such groups as American Cancer Society, American Liver Foundation, Save the Children, Near and Far Aid, various Rotary and Lions Clubs, way too many schools to list and then there was the one for the Westport Dems awhile back where now Senator Blumenthal was a guest.

Wine tastings as fund raisers are usually fun, community driven charitable events that raise money for a good LOCAL cause. They can also be good for business, driving new customers to the store that partnered with the charity and collecting taxes on those wines purchased as a result of the event. I am not the only person that gets involved with this type of fund raising. Across this state there are wine tasting fund raisers held almost every week.

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center held their second annual Wine Tasting Event last year honoring Francis Brady, Past President of the Connecticut Bar Association. I am pleased to announce that Governor Dannel Malloy spoke at the event.

The West Hartford Exchange Club held their 6th Annual Wine Tasting Event earlier this month. Portions of the proceeds from the event will benefit Unified Theater. Since its founding in 2002, Unified Theater has served 3,000 students of all abilities in youth-led performing arts groups.

Westport Sunrise Rotary held its 22nd annual wine tasting and silent auction fundraiser last November, partnered with Harvey Skolnick of the Liquor Locker. 22 years and still going strong, that is until these proposed changes go into effect.

The Connecticut Association of REALTORS® Foundation held it's 2nd annual fundraising event, the Autumn Wine Tasting, on September 15, 2011.

The Junior League of Greater New Haven held its Eighth Annual Wine Tasting to support the League and its community projects.

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State Senator Anthony Musto, the House Majority Whip, graduated from Fairfield Prep in 1987, I did a wine tasting fund raiser to benefit Fairfield Prep just last October which included a private in home tasting auctioned off that brought in an additional three or four hundred dollars toward the cause.

Just this past Sunday Feb. 24, State Senator Anthony Musto, Majority Whip (D-Trumbull) attended a Job Fair in the Arnold Bernhard Center at the University of Bridgeport, hosted by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. You better get ready for another one because this bill is a job killer.

Thank you for listening, I only wish I could get all the people who have benefited from these fund raisers up here with me.

Oh, I just read in Sunday's Connecticut Post, that some of you lawmakers are looking to enact legislation that directs business back to independent pharmacies because of this CVS prescription debacle. How do you put someone back in business once they close.

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