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State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE BRENDA L. KUPCHICK
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
HOUSING COMMITTEE
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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony

Against H.B. 6361 An Act Concerning Fair Alcohol Pricing General Law February 20, 2013

**Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Witkos, Representative Baram, and Representative Carter
and members of the General Law Committee:**

my name is Brenda Kupchick and I am member of the CT House of Representatives,
representing the 132nd district that includes Fairfield and Southport.

I come before you today to testify on H.B. No. 6361 AN ACT CONCERNING FAIR
ALCOHOL PRICING.

As a small business owner I know how hard it is to compete in our state – this is especially true
our small liquor stores. I strongly believe that minimum price changes will wipe out
Connecticut's small mom and pop stores. These businesses will not only see their profit margins
shrink, but would be forced to carry a smaller and more limited inventory.

West Hartford business owner Greg Nemergut of West Side Wine and Spirits echoed this
sentiment saying, "Stores like me will not be able to compete in that market. It's going to impact
selection."

People started and grew their businesses under this law and to change it in the guise of lowering
prices for consumers unfairly impacts the job creators in our state. This legislation will give an
unfair advantage to large stores. If this measure is passed, the new competition could attract big-
box stores to the state that have a higher tolerance for low prices because they can sell more to
offset losses from selling at a lower price.

Gene Guarnieri, who owns a package store on Stamford's West Main Street, said it best, saying:

"It's tough now and that's going to make it even more difficult, "We're close to what we pay in terms of pricing already. I don't think the consumer is going to gain by eliminating the minimum bottle. We're a dollar above cost on Budweiser; we're a dollar above cost on things like half gallons of Scotch, maybe \$2 a bottle if we buy it right. I just think the pricing starts before it gets to us."

Brenda L. Kupchick