

Here are the details and the facts behind each proposal:

1. Repeal of minimum pricing:

- a. SB 946 will repeal current minimum pricing laws and allow package stores to sell below their cost regardless of the month in which the product is sold.
- b. The 2012 legislative changes resulted in the formation of the Alcohol Task Force comprised of members of all three tiers and they concluded Connecticut sales and excise taxes are higher than surrounding states(MA and RI have no sales tax on alcohol). Further, Connecticut prices, before taxes, are actually competitive with surrounding states.
- c. Repeal or reduce taxes if you want prices to drop prices and help consumers. Repealing minimum pricing only allows out-of-state big-box retailers to do predatory pricing and use loss leaders to drive out local packages stores. Once they dominate the market, pricing has no more competition and our businesses cease to exist.
- d. CT has one of the best and most vast selection of boutique spirits, wine and beer in the country and all those brands will be gone if big-box retailers are allowed to dominate the market. How does this help the consumer?

2. Increase the permits from three to six:

- a. Doing this allows out of state, big-box chain retailers to dominate the market and drive all the small, medium and large package stores from business.
- b. Permit limits exist to ensure that locally owned business, those with roots in our communities, are the ones who can sell beverage alcohol. In 2012, the number of license that one backer can hold was increased from 2 to 3. With 6 permits one giant retailer could control and sell 20-25% of all retail beverage alcohol.
- c. Connecticut's 1,200 package stores employ in excess of 3,000 people. Small business is the backbone of our economy. We live in CT, we work in CT, and we pay our taxes in CT. We contribute to our communities. We matter!

3. Increase the hours of sale to 10:00PM Monday through Saturday and until 8:00PM on Sunday:

- a. Package stores sacrificed enough when Sunday sales were passed. We have not seen any increase in sales and stores lost another 5% of beer business to grocery stores. An additional hour was added in the 2012 legislation and that did nothing to help the economy.
- b. During the 2012 session, addiction and treatment specialists as well as the police testified that increased outlets and hours add to problems so opposed convenience stores and gas stations selling alcohol. Connecticut already exceeds the national median in alcohol consumption; people can only drink so much. Spreading the same sales over more hours only increases our costs.

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Sent from my iPad