

Molly Wingrove

From: Ruth M. Schwendinger <rschwendinger@huroncmh.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Rep. Alex Garza (District 12); Rep. Sara Cambensy (District 109); Rep. Frank Liberati (District 13); Rep. John Chirkun (District 22); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 79); Rep. Matt Hall (District 63); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Missy Hoytenga (District 102); Rep. Ben Frederick (District 85); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Kathy Crawford (District 38); Rep. Michael Webber (District 45)
Cc: Rep. Jewell Jones (District 11); District 4; cynthiajohnson@house.mi.gov; Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Molly Wingrove
Subject: Opposed to HB 4213
Attachments: Hours of Sale Brief_2019 (2) (1) (6).docx

Representatives serving on the House Regulatory Reform committee,

I am opposed to HB 4213. Michigan should not extend alcohol sales to 4:00 a.m.

During Covid-19 our residents have faced daily challenges to their physical and mental health. During this time of crisis many are increasing or starting for the first time, the unhealthy use of alcohol.

While the attached Hours of Sale Brief by our State Alcohol Epidemiologist emphasizes the expected impact on fatal crashes from expanding hours of sale I would ask you to consider other public health consequences of increased alcohol use.

* Binge drinking rates continue to increase and are associated with increases in both domestic violence and suicidal thoughts and behaviors. (<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmi-suddr.com%2Fblog%2F2018%2F12%2F12%2Fnsduh-regional-data%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cmwingrove%40house.mi.gov%7Cf663cbaa48bb4a91825508d859cab61f%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637358075040601049&sd=has2GhKYAFIvevzu8g9aNjIGtC1Nae74BtAGwuwtzuE%3D&reserved=0>) Those rates are higher for rural areas where tourism plays a bigger economic role.

* Alcohol continues to be the primary drug for which people receive treatment in Michigan, at double the rate people are seeking treatment for opioid use disorders.

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmi-suddr.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cmwingrove%40house.mi.gov%7Cf663cbaa48bb4a91825508d859cab61f%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637358075040611051&sd=ZsnFXCyvB2enjfqeIDYx8DpNxMW9xPNZJ1B%2B7tz%2F32w%3D&reserved=0>

Prior to the economic losses due to Covid-19, we already had employers unable to fill open positions due to the inability of candidates to pass a drug and alcohol screening. Increasing the hours of sale may improve the short-term financial wellbeing of a very small segment of Michiganders but is not worth the cost of health and prosperity of those who are likely to misuse alcohol or be directly adversely affected by those who do. It will not provide the economic boost needed to revive a healthy Michigan economy.

I appreciate the House Regulatory Reform Committee's attention to this matter.

Ruth Schwendinger,
Huron County Recovery & Prevention Roundtable Chairperson Prevention Specialist Huron Behavioral Health

Hours of Sale: Policy Brief

Summary:

In Michigan, a business that sells alcohol for onsite consumption (on-premise) is allowed to sell alcohol until 2 a.m. New rules may allow businesses in any city, village, or township to extend the hours of sale. With local legislative approval by a majority vote, an on-premise licensee would be allowed to sell alcohol between:

- 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. any day of the week

An extended hour's permit will not be granted unless the applicant has already been approved by the local legislative body in which the applicant's place of business is located.

Public Health Impact:

According to research compiled by The Community Guide¹, extending the hours of sale by 2 to 4 hours was associated with:

- An increase in alcohol consumption.
- A relative increase in motor vehicle crash injuries ranging from 4 percent to 11 percent.
- A shift in timing of motor vehicle crashes corresponding to the change in closing time of the alcohol outlet.

Additional studies found an increase in emergency room admissions, injuries, violence, and suspected driving while intoxicated, as well as an increase in alcohol-related assault and injury.¹

Current Michigan Environment:

In 2017, there were 10,265 crashes that involved alcohol in Michigan, a 5 percent increase from 2016.² On average, that's 28 alcohol-related crashes per day. Of the 937 fatal crashes that occurred in Michigan, 320 (34.2 percent) were alcohol related.² Additionally:

- There were 359 alcohol-related fatalities in 2017, a 31 percent increase from 2016.²
- Of the 320 had-been-drinking (HBD) fatal crashes that occurred in Michigan in 2017, 21 percent occurred on a Saturday. An additional 18 percent occurred on a Sunday.³
- Nearly a quarter (24 percent) of HBD fatal motor vehicle crashes occurred between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m., and an additional 21 percent occurred between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.²
- Compared to 2016, nearly half (48 percent) of Michigan counties had an increase in HBD fatalities in 2017.³

For more information, please contact Patrick Hindman (Alcohol Epidemiologist) by phone or e-mail.

Phone: 517-335-5027 | E-mail: hindmanp@michigan.gov

¹ The Community Guide. Excessive alcohol consumption. Retrieved from: <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/alcohol-excessive-consumption-maintaining-limits-hours-sale>

² Michigan Traffic Crash Facts. 2019. Retrieved from: <http://publications.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/2017/MTCFVol1.pdf>

³ Michigan Traffic Crash Facts. 2019. Retrieved from: <http://publications.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/2017/Alcohol.pdf>