

Sofija Phillips
236 Eagle Rd, Unit 2
Avon CO 81620
healnhandz@gmail.com
920-216-8956

April 10, 2024

Dear Colorado House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB24-1373 and to urge you to champion this bill as it moves forward in the legislative process. As a minority and independent liquor store owner, I have witnessed firsthand the catastrophic effects of Proposition 125 on our industry.

Since the passage of Proposition 125, I have experienced a significant decline in sales, revenue, and foot traffic to my store. Many of my fellow independent liquor store owners are facing closures, and the challenges we encounter in obtaining timely deliveries from wholesalers only exacerbate our struggles.

One of the primary issues we face is corporate greed, as large chains and corporations leverage their immense buying power to secure preferential pricing and treatment from wholesalers and suppliers. These chains often sell alcohol at low margins or below cost, aiming to drive local independent liquor stores out of business.

Furthermore, as a mother of young children, I am deeply troubled by the increasing presence of alcohol in grocery stores. Navigating the aisles filled with wine displays, especially in the produce section and at every end cap, presents a constant challenge and exposure to alcohol that I find concerning for the well-being of my family.

If we fail to address the issues posed by LLDS licenses, chains will continue to invest millions in reshaping Colorado's liquor landscape to the detriment of independent businesses and local producers. Additionally, the increased square footage allocated to beer, wine, and malt-based products in chains comes at the expense of food, further limiting consumer choice and diversity in our communities.

I implore you to support HB24-1373 and take a stand against corporate consolidation and monopolization in the liquor industry. By leveling the playing field and protecting the interests of

independent liquor store owners and craft producers, we can foster a more equitable and diverse marketplace for all Coloradans.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and I look forward to your support of HB24-1373.

Sincerely,

Sofija Phillips

Co-owner Antlers Liquor & Wine Cellar
Frisco, CO 81620

