

Pennsylvania's Coalition to Save Lives, Families, and Communities

Resolution to Dedicate Taxes on Wine, Liquor and Beer to Support Treatment and Prevention for Alcohol and Other Drug Addictions

Whereas, Individuals, families, and communities suffer from problems related to alcohol and other drugs,

Whereas, The problems/costs of alcohol and other drug use disorders permeate many other systems within the Commonwealth such as education, health care, law enforcement and criminal justice, welfare, domestic violence, child abuse services and other children's services including foster care, health insurance, and car insurance,

Whereas, Tragic health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is a causal factor in a host of serious problems, including homicide, suicide, traumatic injury, drowning, burns, violent and property crime, high-risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning,

Whereas, Waiting lists for treatment exist all over the state and clients go untreated late in the fiscal year due to exhausted funding sources or leave treatment too soon due to limited funding,

Whereas, Family members remain incarcerated when they should be in needed treatment programs,

Whereas, Pennsylvania's beer excise tax rate, which has not been increased since 1948, is one of the lowest in the country, and,

Whereas, A secure source of funding to support a full continuum of drug and alcohol treatment and prevention is needed, be it therefore,

Resolved, that:

1. The Commonwealth tax on wine and spirits, often referred to as the Johnstown Flood Tax or the Emergency Tax, which generated approximately \$207 million in 2004/05 should be dedicated to the existing state-funded drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services,
2. The tax on beer in Pennsylvania should be raised from \$0.08 to \$0.24 per gallon, and
3. Revenue realized from an increase of the tax on beer should be used to provide drug and alcohol treatment and prevention programs,

Be it Further Resolved, That the undersigned organization will educate its members of its endorsement of this Resolution and allow its name to be added to those who support this Resolution, to comprise Pennsylvania's Coalition to Save Lives, Families, and Communities, which will educate the members of the General Assembly as to the content of the resolution and urge its members to do the same.