

Resolution to Dedicate Taxes on Alcohol to Support Treatment and Prevention

WHEREAS, The problems/costs of alcohol and other drug use disorders destroy lives, families and communities and permeate many other systems within the Commonwealth such as education, health care, law enforcement and criminal justice, welfare, domestic violence, children's services, health insurance, and car insurance,

WHEREAS, Tragic health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is the primary cause 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, underage drinker driver crashes, leading to injuries and fatalities,

WHEREAS, Underage drinking costs Pennsylvania \$2 billion dollars a year,

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, Approximately 65% of Pennsylvania citizens drink alcohol, and of those, 20% of the drinkers consume 80% of the alcohol.

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, Studies have shown that benefits of an increased beer tax include a **reduction** in youth suicides, child abuse, violence in high schools and colleges, underage drinking, college binge drinking and DUI crashes,

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, should be dedicated to existing state-funded drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services,
2. The tax on beer in Pennsylvania should be raised from \$0.08 per gallon to \$0.66 per gallon and the revenue realized should be used to provide drug and alcohol treatment and prevention programs,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the undersigned organization will educate its members on its endorsement of this Resolution and allow its name to be added to those who support this Resolution, to comprise the 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.

→ Questions? Call 717-657-7078 → Please return the filled-out and signed resolution to →

Name of Organization _____


Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____



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