



Maryland Developmental

Disabilities Coalition



## THE LORRAINE SHEEHAN HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT OF 2010

### WHAT HB 832 & SB 717 WOULD DO:

- Increase alcohol taxes by a dime per drink in the state of Maryland.
- Raise \$214 million in new revenues. The existing tax (which goes to the General Fund) will comprise 12.75% of total revenues after the increase; the remainder (new revenues) would be divided as follows:
  - 15% to Development Disability Support Fund, § 7-207 of the Health – General Article
  - 15% to the Addiction Treatment and Prevention Fund, § 8-207 of the Health – General Article
  - 15% to the Mental health Care Fund, § 10-209 of the Health – General Article
  - 42.25% to the Maryland Medicaid Trust Fund, § 15-103.6 of the Health – General Article, to fund health care coverage for childless adults
- Save \$249 million in healthcare costs, avert 15,000 cases of alcohol abuse, 316 assaults, 67 incidents of severe violence against children, and 37 premature deaths every year.
- Create and preserve jobs in crucial sectors of healthcare and other state services.
- Reduce drinking among young people and heavy drinkers.

### MARYLAND'S ALCOHOL TAXES CURRENTLY:

- The spirits excise tax was last raised in 1955, when Eisenhower was president.
- The beer and wine excise taxes were last raised in 1972, when Nixon was president.
- Current excise tax on beer is \$.09 per gallon, on wine is \$.40 per gallon and on spirits is \$1.50 per gallon. These are the equivalent of less than a penny (\$.0084) a drink for beer, and less than two cents a drink for wine (\$.0156) and spirits (\$.0176).
- Maryland's alcohol taxes are among the lowest in the nation. The spirits tax is 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation, the beer tax is 44<sup>th</sup> and the wine tax is 37<sup>th</sup>.
- From 1977 to 2006, the share of the state budget paid for by alcohol excise taxes has dropped sevenfold – from 0.7 percent to 0.1 percent.

### WHAT RESEARCH ON ALCOHOL TAXES HAS FOUND:

- Alcohol excise tax increases have the ability to both increase state revenues AND save lives, including among young people and heavy drinkers. They are a win-win for state government.
- Alcohol taxes affect persons with higher incomes the most, because the wealthier people are the more they drink. According to CDC, binge drinking in Maryland rises with income.

### ALCOHOL IN MARYLAND

- 1,278 deaths per year are caused by alcohol use in Maryland.
- 7,470 violent crimes per year are caused by alcohol use in Maryland.
- 1 out of 4 Maryland high school students binge drinks. Alcohol causes 1 out of 3 deaths among young people in Maryland ages 15 to 20.
- Harmful use of alcohol costs the state of Maryland at least \$3.5 billion per year.

***Lorraine Sheehan Health and Community Services Act of 2010  
Coalition Supporters***

1199 SEIU Health Care Workers East  
AARP Maryland  
Advocates for Children and Youth  
American Heart Association – Mid-Atlantic Affiliate/Maryland Chapter  
American Jewish Congress – Maryland Chapter  
The Arc of Maryland  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
Chinese American Doctors Association, Inc.  
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland  
Cross Disability Rights Coalition  
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
Families USA  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Healthy Start Maryland  
IBEW Local 1900  
JumpStart Concepts, Inc.  
Lutheran Office on Public Policy  
Maryland Academy of Family Physicians  
Maryland Addictions Directors Council  
Maryland Association of Community Services  
Maryland Association of Core Service Agencies  
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative (and their 1200 organizational endorsers)  
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council  
Maryland Disability Law Center  
Marylanders for a Balanced Approach  
Maryland Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
Maryland Public Health Association  
Maryland State Conference of the NAACP  
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform  
Maryland PIRG  
Medicaid Matters Maryland  
Mental Health Association of Maryland  
Mosaic Community Services  
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland  
National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Maryland Affiliate  
On Our Own of Maryland  
People On the Go of Maryland  
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington  
Presbytery of Baltimore  
Progressive Maryland  
SEIU State Council  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church - North American Division  
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400

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