



*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

## **SB 821 Alcoholic Beverages - Manufacturer's Licenses and Off-Site Permits**

**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**March 5, 2021**

### **OPPOSE**

Although most people who use alcohol do not have discernable resulting problems, the spectrum of unhealthy patterns of alcohol use are extremely common. **Alcohol is the fourth leading cause of preventable death in the U.S, and results in twice the number of deaths as do opioids.**

Making alcohol more available to the public in off-site venues is likely to increase the rate of hazardous or harmful alcohol use.

There has been a **significant pandemic-related rise in serious mental health and substance use problems and in alcohol-related traffic fatalities**, making resulting harms especially severe at this time.

The regulation of the sale of ordinary household goods, for example, is very different from regulation of products with the risk of addiction and serious health consequences in a significant proportion of users.

We respectfully request an unfavorable report.

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