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Testimony in Support of SB 0654 –
Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class HC (Health Club) License

I am an attorney in Harford County with an extensive practice in alcoholic beverages law for 38 years.

I write in support of SB 0654 creating a new class of license, namely the Class HC (Health Club) License. I represent Harford Health & Fitness, Inc. t/a The Arena Club, located in Churchville, Harford County, Maryland. The owners are Keith and Kathy Rawlings. Their club members desire to have the ability to purchase beer, wine and/or liquor for consumption on the premises. The health club is a full-service venue with outdoor pools (tented in the wintertime) and pickle ball courts. Allowing this license to be enacted will meet their club members' demand.

Moreover, the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs, Fallston Swim Club, and Valley Brook Pool all have the ability to serve alcohol. Enacting SB 0654 will place The Arena Club in a position similar to Maryland Golf and Country Clubs, Fallston Swim Club, and Valley Brook Pool. The owners are extremely responsible with a dedicated staff. All servers will be alcohol awareness trained and carding will be strictly enforced.

I urge your support for SB 0654.