



**Senate Finance Committee  
February 21, 2025**

**Senate Bill 824  
Alcoholic Beverages - Prohibition on Class A Licenses for Chain Stores,  
Supermarkets, and Discount Houses – Repeal**

**Oppose**

NCADD-Maryland respectfully opposes Senate Bill 824 which would allow beer and wine licenses to be issued to a chain store, supermarket, or discount house. This would increase the number of alcohol outlets throughout the state for off-premises drinking by almost two-fold. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that high alcohol outlet density is known to be an environmental risk factor for excessive drinking. Based on strong scientific evidence of intervention efficacy, they recommend using public policy to limit, not expand, alcohol outlet density. Excessive drinking in turn leads to increases in violence, criminal activity, domestic violence, and child maltreatment.

It is also true that with an increase in alcohol outlets, the opportunity for people under the age of 21 to purchase alcohol increases. There have been studies that show that reducing the commercial availability of alcohol as part of a comprehensive prevention strategy can contribute to a reduction in underage drinking and alcohol-related problems. Research has also shown that liquor stores do a much better job than grocery stores in checking identification of people purchasing alcohol. We know the harms that result from underage drinking are far reaching, contributing to negative consequences including injuries, sexual assaults, and deaths.

We ask for an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 824.