

LB 1109
General Affairs Committee
Online Comments of Chris Wagner
Project Extra Mile
February, 28, 2022

On behalf of the Project Extra Mile coalition of 500+ individuals and organizations across the state working to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms, we urge the Committee to indefinitely postpone LB 1109.

This bill would allow the spouse of a law enforcement officer to obtain a liquor license and the officer to be involved in the day-to-day operations of that business.

Because alcohol is a drug that, when consumed in excess, can lead to serious public safety and health consequences and because law enforcement agencies are tasked with enforcing the law at liquor licensed establishments, we feel strongly that there should not be any overlap between these two groups. There should be a clear line separating law enforcement and the alcohol industry.

The State of Nebraska directs hundreds of thousands of grant dollars towards preventing underage and binge drinking in communities across the state. Alcohol compliance checks and other undercover operations that occur at these businesses would be put in jeopardy because under this bill, liquor licensees would have access to advance knowledge of these operations and would be able to spread the word to the larger industry when and where these operations will be taking place, completely undermining the accuracy of these operations.

LB 1109 would upend what little enforcement of our state's liquor laws that currently exists. For this reason, we vehemently oppose the bill and ask for its indefinite postponement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Wagner
Executive Director