

**LB 377**  
**General Affairs Committee**  
**Testimony of Chris Wagner**  
**Project Extra Mile**  
**January 30, 2023**

Good afternoon, Vice Chair Hughes and members of the committee. My name is Chris Wagner, and I am here representing Project Extra Mile, a network of community partnerships working in Nebraska to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

We're opposed to this bill because it doubles the amount of these temporary liquor licenses that increase alcohol density in communities across the state. As I mentioned earlier, when you increase the availability of alcohol, you increase excessive consumption and the harms that come with it.

Doubling the number of SDLs that non-profit organizations can utilize for fundraising and other purposes increases the amount of alcohol that is sold in communities without real accountability to the law. Law enforcement resources are stretched thin, and agencies are having a hard time retaining and recruiting officers. With that said, even if law enforcement were to cite the licensee for a violation – a sale to minor or intoxicated person, for example – there is no way to hold that non-profit accountable for breaking the law because the license ceases to exist once the event has concluded.

In addition, many of these non-profit run events are staffed by volunteers who have little-to-no training on our state's liquor laws. We need a better balance between focusing on the profits that can be gained from alcohol for the few and the costs and harms experienced by the many. Six SDLs per non-profit are already enough. I'm not asking you to vote against non-profits, I'm asking you to vote for public health and safety. Please vote no on LB 377.

Thank you for your consideration.