

Project Extra Mile Calls for Public Health and Safety Positions on Liquor Control Commission

Written by Keally Peck

Omaha, NE- Project Extra Mile, a local non-profit that has worked for 30 years to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms in the State of Nebraska, and sought to bring increased transparency at the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission during that time, is calling for Governor Jim Pillen to increase the number of commissioners to include expertise in public health and safety at the Liquor Control Commission.

“By adding these new commissioners, the agency will possess what it has long lacked – first-hand knowledge of the full extent of alcohol-related harms our state experiences.” Project Extra Mile Executive Director Chris Wagner said.

After a wake in one of the most shocking abuses of power in state government, the executive director of the Nebraska Liquor Commission allegedly traded official government actions for money, sexual favors, free drinks and inside information about competitors. Project Extra Mile is in support of the governor’s promise to do everything in his power to ensure conduct and governance at the Commission meets expectations going forward.

Excessive alcohol consumption kills over 1,000 Nebraskans each year, causing chronic disease such as several types of cancer and costs the state over \$1.1 billion in economic costs annually.

With these changes, the organization can look forward to the Commission having a renewed focus on ensuring that businesses are selling alcohol legally along with receiving the appropriate penalties for violations. This can increase the likelihood that the Commission’s decisions do not sacrifice the health and safety of Nebraskans to only benefit the few.

Governor Pillen has also requested and accepted the resignation of Bruce Bailey and Kim Lowe of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission earlier this week.

The Liquor Control Commission is scheduled to meet tomorrow, October 1st, at 9 a.m. for its regularly scheduled meeting.