



Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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April 9, 2024

The Honorable Kyle Mullica
Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
200 E Colfax Avenue, SCR 357
Denver, CO 80203

Re: COSAM's Support for SB24-181, Alcohol Impact & Recovery Enterprise

Dear Chair Mullica:

On behalf of the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Colorado specializing in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we write today in support of SB24-181. This important legislation would enact measures to enhance the prevention of alcohol misuse and other substance use disorders (SUD) throughout our state, including by imposing new fees on alcohol manufacturers and wholesalers.

Harmful use of alcohol is one of the leading causes of preventable death in the United States.¹ Alcohol is responsible for an average of 2,600 deaths annually in Colorado.² Further, it is estimated that excessive alcohol use costs Colorado taxpayers an average of \$5 billion.³ As we continue to face significant challenges related to harmful substance use, enhanced investment in the prevention of SUD is a critical policy goal. One effective method to reduce alcohol consumption is by raising prices of the product.⁴ SB24-181 imposes new fees on manufacturers and wholesalers which could in turn reduce alcohol consumption in our state, saving both lives and taxpayer funds.

Further, ASAM notes in its policy statement on prevention, effective prevention measures can reduce serious injury and death associated with substance use, misuse, and SUD and improve quality of life.⁵ Additionally, evidence-based prevention measures can increase productivity and potentially save taxpayers money. Simply put, pursuing effective prevention measures is a sound financial investment that saves lives. As such, SB24-181 could reduce harmful substance use on both the front end and the back end through wise long-term investments in prevention.

In sum, this legislation is a positive step that will help reduce harmful alcohol use and secure key investments in prevention. COSAM strongly supports SB24-181 and urges its advancement through the committee. We commend the sponsors for bringing forward this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other assistance that we can provide.

Sincerely,
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Public Policy Liaison, COSAM

Trissana DeLeon, NP
Secretary, COSAM

CC: The Honorable Chris Kolker
The Honorable Janet Buckner
The Honorable Chris Hansen
The Honorable Cleave Simpson
The Honorable Jim Smallwood
The Honorable Kevin Van Winkel

¹ National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (2024). *Understanding Alcohol's Adverse Impact on Health*. <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-alcohol-adverse-impact-health#:~:text=The%20Alcohol%2DRelated%20Disease%20Impact,United%20States%2C%20behind%20tobacco%2C%20poor>

² National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics. (2023). *Alcohol Abuse Statistics: National & State Data*. NCDAS. <https://drugabusestatistics.org/alcohol-abuse-statistics/#colorado>

³ Ibid

⁴ ASAM - American Society of Addiction Medicine. (2023, *Prevention*. asam.org. <https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policystatements/2023/09/27/prevention>

⁵ Ibid.