

September 14, 2023

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Comer and Representative Raskin:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in opposition to HR 3721 (the USPS Shipping Equity Act). This bill would allow the USPS to ship beverage alcohol. The bill raises major public health concerns. It would undermine the 3-tier system of alcohol control and increase the potential for unsafe, unlicensed, tainted, counterfeit alcohol to avoid regulation and enter the marketplace. Most importantly, underage drinking is the number one substance use issue facing American youth and this legislation would only exacerbate the problem.

Age verification and ID checks are critical tools in preventing underage access to alcohol. The USPS Shipping Equity Act puts the USPS in the position of having to monitor and enforce state-specific laws regarding particular products.¹ The USPS would be forced to invest in the technology to follow age verification policies, placing an additional burden on an agency already mired in fiscal and logistical challenges. Furthermore, studies show that delivery drivers ignore or improperly enforce age verification policies or deliver alcohol to the wrong address.² This will only provide underage Americans with an easier way to purchase and consume alcohol, threatening to reverse the progress the public health field has made in reducing rates of underage drinking.

As Congress is attempting to prevent fentanyl from being shipped through the mail, it makes no sense to open the USPS to alcohol shipping. If the USPS Shipping Equity Act is enacted, the public health consequences could be substantial and young Americans could be put at additional risk from alcohol. Please oppose this legislation and ensure there is no hearing or other consideration of it in the House Oversight and Accountability Committee. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

American Society of Addiction Medicine
CADCA
Consumer Federation of America
Council on Addictions of New York State
Drug Free America Foundation
Foundation for Drug Policy Solutions
Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.
National Association for Children of Addiction
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

¹ Grossman, E.R., Binakonsky, J., Jernigan, D. (2018 July 3). The use of regulatory power by U.S. state and local alcohol control agencies to ban problematic products. *Subst. Use Misuse*, Vol. 53(8): 1229-1238.

² Williams, R.S., Ribisl, K. (2012 September). Internet alcohol sales to minors. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* (No. 9).

National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
Partnership to End Addiction
Recovery Alaska
Save Our Society from Drugs
Society for Prevention Research
Students Against Destructive Decisions
Treatment Communities of America
U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance
WestCare