



## PA's Wine & Spirits Stores Facts:

# Don't give away a valuable asset that benefits ALL Pennsylvanians!

### *Revenue:*

- PA's Wine & Spirits stores **generate more than \$584 million a year** in taxes and profits – a number that grows every year. It would be reckless and irresponsible to sell such a valuable asset that benefits all Pennsylvania taxpayers.
- Privatization would bring in revenue one time only. The asset would be gone, forever. The privateers who stand to profit would make out great – while taxpayers are left holding the bag.
- The privateers have no evidence to support their claim that their claims that privatization would help solve PA's budget crisis.
  - In 2013, Governor Corbett claimed his plan would bring in \$1 billion over four years. This was untrue, just like when House Speaker Mike Turzai and his allies could not substantiate their claim that they could raise the \$2 billion, \$4 billion or \$6 billion that they carelessly threw around in their privatization schemes in past years.
  - In 2015, Republicans dropped their estimate down to \$200 million a year from privatization. The numbers continue to fall.

### *Public Safety:*

- In April 2012 the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Task Force on Community Preventive Services found that privatization leads to increased consumption and increased excessive consumption. **The CDC recommended against any further privatization of alcohol sales.**
- Privatization would allow alcohol sales on every corner -- a disaster for communities all across the state. It would mean more nuisance stores on neighborhood corners, an increase in drinking by minors, an increase in drunk driving, and more social problems linked to alcohol abuse — including crime, domestic violence and child abuse.

- PA has the nation's **lowest** rate of deaths related to alcohol diseases in the country, according to the CDC.
- UFCW members in PA's Wine & Spirits stores conduct more than one million card checks every year. Just last year, they rejected 25,000 potential minors. Employees are trained to spot phony ID cards. Their record of doing so is unmatched anywhere in the U.S.
- Groups such as MADD, Students against Drunk Driving, the PA DUI Association, the NAACP and other organizations concerned with excessive and underage alcohol consumption **all oppose privatization.**

### ***Service and Selection:***

- PA stores carry more than 30,000 different items, with an average of up to 3,000 in stock at any time. Very few private retailers carry that wide of a selection. In many rural areas, service would disappear.
- Customer satisfaction surveys repeatedly show that customers are much more satisfied with service, price and selections at PA's Wine & Spirits stores than at other retailers they patronize.

### ***Jobs:***

- 5,000 men and women who work in or support today's Wine & Spirits stores have family-sustaining jobs with decent benefits. Privatization would risk the survival of 1,100 beer distributors and the jobs of 15,000 workers. Our economy is recovering. Privatization would destroy current jobs and create low-wage, no-benefit jobs that do nothing to grow our state's economy.

### ***Modernization:***

- Rep. Gene DiGirolamo's (R-Bucks) has introduced legislation that would modernize the Wine and Spirits stores to provide better consumer convenience and raise \$185 million for the state treasury. Modernization proposals include more stores open on Sundays, variable pricing, Wine and Spirits stores inside or adjacent to grocery stores, allowing lottery sales, consumer relations management programs and direct shipment of wine.