



May 3, 2018

Colorado General Assembly
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly:

As CEO and president of ARC Thrift Stores, it has recently come to my attention that a bill, SB18-243, Concerning the Retail Sale of Alcohol Beverages, may have a significant impact on many of our developmentally disabled citizens who are gainfully employed in grocery stores throughout Colorado.

As I understand, the current version of the bill would prohibit 18-20 year-old grocery store employees from selling, handling or otherwise having any contact with full-strength beer starting in January 1, 2019.

ARC works closely with Safeway and King Soopers to refer and prepare many 18-20 year old's to begin their career with these companies. They provide, quality employment opportunities, benefits and training that otherwise may not be afforded to this population.

I am concerned about this provision on SB18-243 and the workforce issues this will place on our grocery store partners and their strong commitment to the developmentally disabled. I respectfully request this committee to strongly consider changes to this bill to allow 18-20 year old individuals to be able to handle, bag or carry out full-strength beer along with other grocery items.

I understand that there is a concern about having employees under 21 from selling full-strength beer, but I believe there is a workable solution. Perhaps allowing 18-20 year-old employees to handle full strength beer at checkout with supervision of an employee age of 21 year or older. Regardless, the proposed age restrictions will significantly hinder the progress ARC has made in working with the grocery industry to ensure career opportunities for the developmentally disabled.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lloyd Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lloyd Lewis
President & CEO
arc Thrift Stores

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