



Wendell Young IV  
UFCW 1776KS  
President

Dear Acme member,

First, I want to thank you for all you are doing during this pandemic. I know I have said it plenty before, and it can't be said enough, but I am incredibly proud of our members at Acme Markets and the work they are doing. Your union is committed to continuing to work with your employer to make sure you are safe and that all new policies are being implemented. If there are issues in your store as it relates to your health and safety, please call your union representative immediately.

As we continue to advocate for your safety, the point of my email today is to alert you to what a large majority of PA House Republicans are going to attempt to do tomorrow in Harrisburg which would directly affect your safety at Acme. Legislation is expected to run tomorrow that would expand alcohol sales and privileges for retail grocery stores in Pennsylvania.

House Bills 327 and 1279 are expected to be brought up for a vote. They would do the following:

- Allow grocery stores and restaurants to sell spirits for off-premise consumption.
- Allow grocery stores to TRIPLE the amount of wine sold in a single transaction, going from 4 bottles to 12 bottles.
- Allow grocery stores to sell alcohol at any register in the store, and place product anywhere within the store as well.

I find this highly concerning to your health and safety at your worksite for many reasons.

1. I want Acme Markets' full and undivided attention on YOUR safety and implementing the new policies we have agreed to in order to reduce the risk of Covid-19 in your worksite. Nothing is more important right now and this should be their primary focus.
2. Allowing additional sales of alcohol in your store will create a consumer surge in your locations that is not needed!
3. Allowing alcoholic product anywhere in the store means ALL employees would now be responsible for policing large grocery stores, where alcoholic product anywhere could lead to additional shoplifting and underage theft. You do not need this added stress.
4. Allowing the sale of alcohol at any register means your employer would then have to scramble to get everyone state certified (RAMP training) so they legally would be able to sell alcohol. I want your employer focusing on safety policies with you, not selling alcohol.
5. Tripling the amount of wine sold in your store will mean more product to stock, clogging up sections of the store that sell alcohol and create further clutter. We need to more open areas of the store to keep you and your customers safe.

I need you to call your state representative and ask them to vote NO on liquor bills that would directly impact your safety. At a time like this, our lawmakers should be focused on making your job easier, not more difficult. The legislature should focus on legislation that would provide paid sick leave in the event they contract Covid-19; secure additional PPE for these workers who are in harm's way, strengthen child care options and mental health support; prioritize Covid-19 testing and helping enforce the Governor's workplace directive issued Wednesday.

To find out who your state representative is, please click [HERE](#). Call them, leave a voicemail, and urge them to support you and your safety.

Also, please see the email we sent to the entire Pennsylvania House of Representatives below.

Thank you for what you all do.

Thank you,

Wendell Young IV, President  
UFCW Local 1776 Keystone State

**Dear Representative,**

On behalf of the 35,000 members of UFCW Local 1776 Keystone State, I am writing to urge you to oppose various amendments offered by Rep. Kurt Masser, Rep. Jason Ortity and Rep. Greg Rothman to House Bill 327 that are expected to be voted upon on 2<sup>nd</sup> consideration on Monday. I also urge a no vote on House Bill 1279 (Rep. Natalie Mihalek) which is also on the calendar to run this week.

And I want to be clear: our union opposes these measures not just for the 3,500 members who work for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, but also on behalf of the nearly 20,000 members who work in retail grocery stores and pharmacies across our Commonwealth.

While a large majority of our liquor store membership is currently out of work – something I know that has been frustrating for both Democrats and Republicans, as well as for our union – the large majority of our members have been working through this pandemic. They are the real heroes of this Covid-19 crisis, and I hope someday soon when we get back to the normal order of business, our state legislature will reward them for what they have done to get us all through this.

This has not been an easy time for my members. We have hundreds of confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the membership in retail grocery stores and food processing plants. We, sadly, also have a few deaths including two union shop stewards. My staff and I have been tirelessly working around the clock to implement further workplace safety policies in all of our locations where we represent employees. We have been working at length with the Wolf Administration and the Department of Health for stronger workplace safety protections. We thank the Governor for his directive issued this past Wednesday that will keep workers safer in businesses that are currently operating. We will continue to aggressively enforce that directive in our worksites. We will continue to challenge our state government to enforce these policies in areas where employees are not being kept safe.

I state all of this not to be dramatic, but to give you the perspective of how serious this Covid-19 pandemic is to my members, as I am sure it is in many of your legislative districts as well. The heavy cost of this pandemic is why I am incredibly disappointed that in these times, where we have frontline essential workers in so many sectors beyond the ones we represent, that we are coming back to Harrisburg this week to run liquor bills. It is very frustrating to my members and I am sure to all frontline workers everywhere.

Our union is not naïve to current situation as it relates to liquor sales at this moment in time. We believe the Governor took the right action initially in closing our state liquor stores due to the uncertainty at the onset of the Covid-19 crisis. But we do recognize that alcohol sales are taking place in the private sector and other states and agree with the many lawmakers that we need to find a safe way to reopen our Fine Wine and Good Spirits stores and begin providing access again to spirits products here in Pennsylvania. We have worked collaboratively with the PLCB on a reopening plan for curbside pickup that we hope will be implemented shortly. That is the path forward we think is best for Pennsylvania taxpayers, our members and the public at large.

Unfortunately, the amendments and bills mentioned above are designed to take advantage of this situation – which our members at the PLCB had no control of – and use it as an opportunity to push further privatization and expansion of the sale of wine and spirits in our state. We have opposed all of these measures in the past, so I do not need to get into detail by detail on each amendment.

But what is even more concerning to me is the inability to see what these amendments would do through the eyes of a grocery store employee who is one of those frontline heroes of this pandemic. Our members in grocery stores are exhausted, scared and have had the impossible assignment of reporting to work each day knowing that there is a chance they could be exposed to someone who has Covid-19. This is incredibly stressful work, which is why these amendments are irresponsible. Allowing the off-premise sale of hard alcohol in grocery stores and restaurants; allowing sales at any cash register meaning every employee now must be RAMP trained; expecting grocery store employees to police a 40,000 sq. foot store since alcoholic product can be placed anywhere; and allowing grocery stores to triple the amount of wine they can sell in a single transaction are unneeded, additional responsibilities that these workers should not have to bear in this moment in time. Further, there are real logistical challenges – especially for the restaurants – on how they would be able to turn into spirits retailers for off-premise consumption. Please think about this. Our members in grocery stores would now have to monitor more potential shoplifting, stock even more product due to tripling of wine sales, get RAMP certified, card more people when they are trying to limit contact with handling customer's personal belongings, deal with an entirely new controlled substance in hard liquor and deal with the immediate surge in customer volume when we are trying to reduce traffic in these stores. Please consider the current roles these Pennsylvanians are playing during this pandemic as they are already completely exposed to the general public every single day.

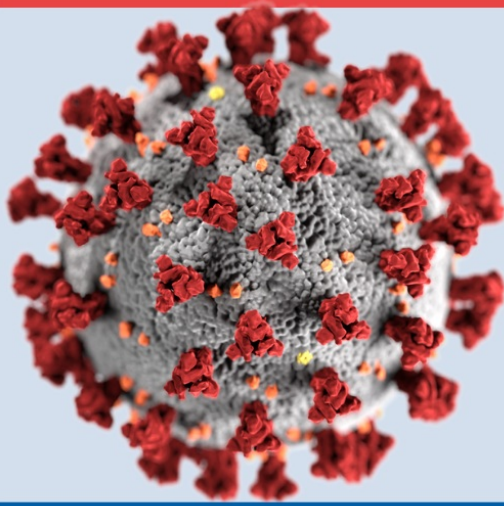
This is not the time for this type of legislation. If the will of the legislature is to increase access to spirits once again, they should advocate for this access through safe, controlled sales at the Wine and Spirits stores through curbside delivery and other measures. Our frontline workers at grocery stores do not need the added stress of additional enforcement of further alcohol policies in their stores. Rather than making their jobs more difficult, the legislature should focus on legislation that would provide paid sick leave in the event they contract Covid-19; secure additional PPE for these workers who are in harm's way, strengthen child care options and mental health support; prioritize Covid-19 testing and helping enforce the Governor's workplace directive issued Wednesday.

Once again, I urge you to vote against amendments and bills that would further expand the access and sale of spirits in the private sector, putting retail grocery employees even more in harm's way. I ask that you work with our union to help get our Fine Wine and Good Spirits stores back operating in a safe, responsible way that gives access to spirits products back to your constituents.

If you need to reach me on this matter, my email is [w@ufcw1776.org](mailto:w@ufcw1776.org), or you can contact the union's legislative director, Chris Naylor, at 267-738-4403 or by email at [cnaylor@ufcw1776.org](mailto:cnaylor@ufcw1776.org).



Thank you,  
Wendell W Young IV  
President,  
UFCW Local 1776 Keystone State



**BEAT COVID-19!**

**Together.  
Responsibly.  
We Will Win.**



**IF YOU SEE (484) 589-1357 CALLING YOU, PICK UP THE PHONE!  
IT'S YOUR UNION CALLING WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION!**