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May 11, 2015

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
Attn: Rodrigo Diaz, Executive Deputy Chief Counsel
Room 401, Northwest Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17124-0001

Re: Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
Proposed Regulation #54-79: Responsible Alcohol Management Program

Dear Attorney Diaz:

I would like to thank you for introducing Proposed Regulation #54-79/IRRC #3093 focusing on enhancing training opportunities through the Bureau of Alcohol Education's (BAE) Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP). I am writing today in support of the recommendations submitted by Health Communications Inc. (TIPS) to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's (PLCB) proposed regulation #54-79.

As you may know, I have sponsored House Bill 317 which addresses many of the changes proposed in the regulations issued by the PLCB. However, I am recommending a few additions to provide clarity to the certification process. The intent of my legislation is to allow the BAE certification process to include those companies that teach beyond the scope of the Bureau of Alcohol Education's standard curriculum. This will ultimately provide those seeking training with more robust training options. One example of a program whose curriculum exceeds the BAE standard curriculum is TIPS. Their training program includes teaching the concept of intervention procedures, which gives students confidence in situations when they may need to intervene to save a patron's life. However, there are other third party providers of alcohol education that would be eligible to apply for certification. The proposed regulations, once enacted, would ultimately establish a more competitive and robust training environment.

I believe the PLCB proposed regulations coupled with TIPS' recommendations will provide additional transparency and predictability for small businesses that train alcohol service personnel. Below you will find the recommendations in red to the proposed regulations:

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§ 5.211. Course of study for alcohol service personnel. (TIPS Suggested Changes in Red)

(a) A standard curriculum for the course of study will be provided by the BAE.

(b) The BAE is authorized to review curriculum submitted by another training provider and to certify such curriculum if it is equivalent to or exceeding the BAE's standard curriculum.

(1) In the event that the training provider's curriculum is not equivalent to or does not exceed the BAE's standard curriculum, the BAE shall advise the training provider in writing within sixty days of receiving the curriculum as to all subjects where the training provider's curriculum is deficient.

(2) The training provider shall have the opportunity to correct and resubmit its curriculum no more than two (2) times.

(3) If the training provider's curriculum is still deficient after the second and final resubmission, the BAE will not accept any submissions or resubmissions from the training provider for a period of one (1) year from the date that the BAE sent notification to the training provider that the second resubmission was deficient.

There is a significant amount of support in the House of Representatives which includes 18 co-sponsors to HB 317 who wish to see a successful resolution of this matter. Thank you for your time and effort on the proposed regulations before the IRRRC.

Sincerely,



Mike Regan

House District 92

cc: The Honorable Tim Holden, PLCB Board Chairman
The Honorable Joseph E. "Skip" Brion, PLCB Board Member
The Honorable Michael Negra, PLCB Board Member
Norina Blynn, PLCB Assistant Counsel
Chairman John F. Mizner, Esq., IRRRC
Commissioner George D. Bedwick, IRRRC
Commissioner W. Russell Faber, IRRRC
Commissioner Murray Ufberg, Esq., IRRRC
Commissioner Dennis A. Watson, Esq., IRRRC